Missing 411

MONTANA

•STATE SERIES•

●Unexplained Disappearances●

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DAVID PAULIDES

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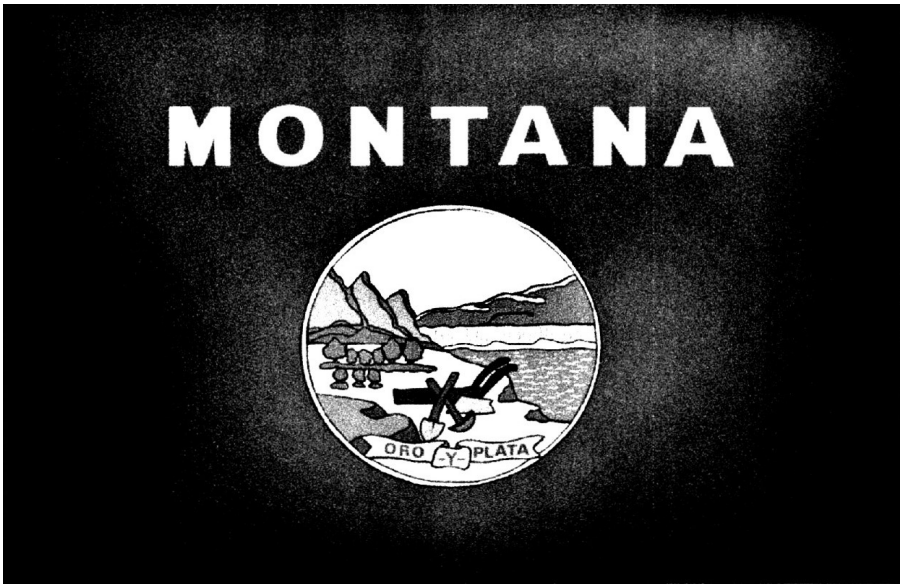

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Dedication

Two Bear Air Rescue

This book is dedicated to one of the premier rescue organizations globally, Two Bear Air Rescue in Kalispell, Montana. At the heart of the organization are its founder, philanthropist, venture capitalist, and a first responder with the organization he funds, Michael Goguen. That's right, a man who has taken his wealth and placed it back into servicing the community he loves. Two Bear Air is 100% funded by Mr. Goguen with no cost to taxpayers.

Mr. Goguen came to the Flathead Valley to visit, loved it, and decided to build a home here. He is someone who saw the beauty of Montana and the need for an air rescue service. He did the research and founded Two Bear Air Rescue. It is a full-time air rescue service that is dispatched through the Flathead County Sheri . The service has flown over 600 missions into Idaho, Utah, and throughout Montana since January 2012. Their primary coverage zone is western Montana and Northern Idaho.

Two Bear flies a twin-engine Bell 429 helicopter equipped with FLIR, an outstanding addition for search and rescue missions. The organization also keeps a backup helicopter when the Bell goes in for maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Goguen and every flight member that has saved lives of people in need and for building and maintaining a world-class air rescue service.

https ://www. twobearair.org/

Abbreviations

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

FLIR Forward Looking Infrared Radar

FOIA Freedom of Information Act

NPS National Park Service

PLS Point Last Scene

SAR Search and Rescue

USFS United States Forest Service

Introduction

This is the first book in our new “State Series.” It focuses on missing people fitting a specific profile developed after ten years of intensive research. If you had read 25-50 missing person reports, it would be di icult to glean aspects of each case that may exist in bulk. If you read 5000 cases, some parts of those incidents start to show their face. When I first started, I could remember that certain things existed in many reports, and I began to stack these reports in di erent piles in my living room. After several months, the piles got higher, and the stacks increased in number.

When I first started to commit myself to this topic and work my way through law enforcement reports, search and rescue logs, news articles, and witness statements, I never knew what the path would reveal. I did know that nobody had ever looked at missing person cases in the manner that our team has followed.

National Park Service

Ten years of research have revealed that the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service both claim they do not have any lists of missing people. These organizations have large law enforcement branches where their o icers have gone through advanced training, sometimes much more than local law enforcement and sheri s. These departments understand the value of maintaining lists; this can be viewed on the National Park website where they maintain a list of movies filmed on their property; yes, lists are essential. When we asked for the National Park Service to produce a list of missing people, they told us that it would cost us $1,400,000.

It may surprise you the number of people that are missing in Montana that have never been found. These bodies are scattered throughout the state and Glacier National Park. These are incidents that have devastated families and left them without closure to an experience that will follow them a lifetime.

Search and Rescue A book about missing people cannot be penned without addressing the men and women of search and rescue. SAR teams are 99% volunteers, and these same volunteers accomplish the vast majority of all searching. Some SAR teams require the volunteers to attend and maintain specialized classes that o er certifications that need to be maintained to be part of the team. The classes are paid for by the volunteer on their own time. Once an emergency is declared and the SAR team is deployed, it is the same volunteer that must leave

their family and employment and go into the field to search. The only compensation is the joy of saving someone's life when that happens. Many times, the SAR workers search ends in tragedy; the victim dies in the field from a fall, hypothermia, starvation, or something worse, animal predation. I don't believe there are many things in life you can do as a volunteer that is as rewarding as participating as a search and rescue volunteer. I encourage everyone to contact their local SAR team, most easily found through your local sheri 's o ice.

I want to thank each of the police o icers, SAR workers, and coordinators that have contacted us and added to the research. Without your contributions and assistance, these books would not have been possible.

Profiling

Part of our research was the development of profile points. These are parts of the SAR that reveal themselves in many cases and are listed under each incident's identifiers. A list of these points is found later in the book with a description of each. In the same manner that a criminal profiler goes about their work identifying similarities in a series of criminal cases and then bulks them together, we have done this with missing people; this has never been done before.

We have established that our profile points are a consistent element in the documented cases in the nine books we have published. While they are not in every incident, just as all robberies cannot be attributed to the same suspect, specific profile points replicate themselves hundreds of times. The most common issue is that a trained Bloodhound/canine brought to the scene cannot pick up the scent trail or specifically does not want to search in these particular instances. I was in a big city SWAT team, and the canine unit was attached to our squad. We trained with the canines weekly and got to know them quite well. The dogs were one of the most valuable tools the police department maintained. The idea of one of these dogs not being interested in the search or not wanting to participate never happened. The dogs lived for the hunt; they were ecstatic to get into the field and find a bad guy; this was their life. To read stories about dogs not wanting to search, walking down a trail a few feet, turning around and coming back to the feet of the handler and laying down simply never happened, but it does. The canines' action is a very confusing part of these scenarios that we do not understand, and more importantly, we don't have a grip on what may be influencing their behavior.

Victims

When we first started this research, I contacted several missing person groups, explained what I was preparing to undertake, and asked how I could avoid making a mistake and walking around the land mines. One of the points consistently made was, if I was going to write about the cases, to not proactively contact the victims as many would feel they were re-victimized by the telling of their incident. I took this advice and found that many victim families contacted me over the years, which led to several great relationships that I treasure greatly.

I personally want to thank the victims and their families who have given us their information and express extreme gratitude for their trust. As you read this book, mark it up, make notes, look for parallels in the locations, incidents, ages, locations, topography, and a multitude of other factors that reveals themselves. I know that thousands of readers have followed this path and have added to our research.

Profile Points

Canine Cannot Find a Scent

In nearly 99% of the cases I have documented, Bloodhounds brought to the point where the victim was last seen cannot find a scent, aren't interested in tracking, or seem oblivious to the smell. As a former member of a law enforcement SWAT team with the canine unit attached to our division, I can guarantee that these dogs love their job and relish tracking people. When I first came across the anomaly of dogs not finding a scent or unwilling to follow, I thought it might be an isolated issue. This is one of the most prevalent profile points in the cases we have identi-fied.

Weather

In most of the cases highlighted in the nine books, the weather has a significant impact on the rescue or recovery of the victim. The weather seems to take a turn for the worse just as the person is going missing or just after they disappeared. Lousy weather includes blizzards, fog, rain, snow, hail, dust storms, extremely cold and hot temperatures. When you first start to read about this, your natural reaction is that it's bad luck. After reading nine books and seeing the scenario replicate itself time after time, you'll be stunned.

Victims Found in an Area Previously Searched

In Missing 411: The Devil's in the Detail, I present a table showing dozens of cases where the missing person was found in a previously searched area. Sometimes the location of the recovery had been searched dozens of times. In one instance, the searchers had taken the same trail hundreds of times over the week hiking to where they believed the victim was located. On one of those days of the search, a tree had fallen across the path, and the young victim was found lying on it. Nobody could explain the perplexing scenario. In Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I presented many cases where remote vehicles, divers, etc., searched a body of water, and then the victim was found precisely where searchers had just left. Many readers have stated that it appears the victim has been placed there to be located. In the past few years, we have been told by other researchers that they think the people were dropped into place to be found. Nobody ever observes the victims arriving in the area. How the victims got to the space where they are eventually located is one of the most perplexing issues.

Missing Clothes or Shoes

Often the victims are found without shoes or missing pieces of clothing. It doesn't matter the type of climate; this has been documented in all kinds of weather. There have been people who have never read the books that make claims that this is due to hypothermia. The issue with that is that there are many small children that are located missing clothing, and their parents state that they could not remove their clothes. In other instances, on a warm afternoon, a person disappears. Hundreds of yards from the location he or she was last seen, searchers find a pile of clothing: The victim didn't have the time to get to the hypothermia state, yet all of their clothes had been removed. You will read stories in this book where clothing and shoes had been removed under highly unusual circumstances.

Time of Disappearance

The vast majority of disappearances occur in the late afternoon or early evening. In Missing 411: O the Grid, there is a table on page 358 that shows cumulative data from seven books. The predominant time disappearances occur is just before it gets dark; that fact hasn't changed.

Disability or Illness

An abnormal number of missing has some disability or illness. This fact only shows itself after vetting thousands of cases. Many readers have stated that it appears to them as though someone or something is

closely monitoring these people and wants to understand more about their genetic markers.

Lack of Memory

It's rare when a victim is found; it's extremely rare when they are found alive. In the instances where a victim can talk and be questioned, the vast majority cannot remember how they got lost or what happened while they were missing. In almost every instance where a victim is found alive, searchers and law enforcement rarely sit with them and debrief about the experience. The e ort may be futile as the victim's memory may be blank.

Missing Are Often Found Near Creeks, Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, and Streams

In my book, Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I documented over 100 cases where young men vanished, sometimes in a large crowd of friends. Nobody can explain where the person went or how they left. Days, sometimes weeks, later, he is found in a body of water, deceased. Just as in previous books, there is a geographical clustering of the missing. I would refer readers to our geographical cluster map of North America for details on this portion of the research.

In my first four Missing 411 books, many victims were found near creeks, rivers, and ponds, and many times the victims would've had to travel unusual and rugged terrain to get to those places.

In many instances, the victim is found amongst rocks and boulders adjacent to the body of water.

Boulders and Granite

The most significant cluster of missing people anywhere globally that matches our criteria is Yosemite National Park. Yosemite happens to be one of those locations in the world that has a high concentration of granite. There are many people documented in our books that are found in boulder fields, amongst boulders and large rocks.

Swamps and Bogs

Some readers will find the fact that many missing people are located in the middle of swamps and bogs a highly unusual place to discover people. I have lost count of the number of times this fact has proven itself to be true. Marshes are one of those places that the general public won't casually wander. It could be considered one of those

locations where few people ever trek. It is also a place discounted by many SAR personnel as too di icult for the victim to travel.

Religion

This is the newest profile point that we have added to our list. Readers have asked in the past if the person was “strongly religious.” I want the audience to reflect on that question. Strongly religious to one person may not be to another. Religion is a highly personal issue that some people do not feel comfortable discussing with others. If the person was a ranking member in a religious organization, that is easy to identify their commitment. Religion is also an issue that you won’t find discussed in any search and rescue or law enforcement reports; it’s a side issue. If I can find information on a victim that discusses their religious background and interests, I will include that information. It is unimportant to me what religious a iliation an individual may have if I include the information.

Point of Separation

Although this is one of our newer profile points, it is something we identified several years ago. I want readers to have an awareness of when two people decide to part company. I’ve always claimed that a hiker traveling alone in the mountains will probably be more safety conscious than someone traveling with a group. I can attest that when I am alone, I am much more cognizant of my surroundings and the inherent danger of what I might be doing. I know that if I break my leg in the wild, I’m alone against the elements with nobody to seek assistance on my behalf.

I am continuing a practice I started in my last book of reinforcing the moment of separation. When I tell the story, at the point the person leaves the presence of others, I am going to strengthen this moment by including the statement, “point of separation.” I want you to know that they have left the safety of numbers and are now alone. Hundreds have written to me about this point and that it appears as though the victim was being watched—and when they were vulnerable and isolated, the unusual happened.

Equipment Malfunction

In documenting hundreds of missing people, you will eventually read about the air support with all SARs. There are a high number of engine and equipment issues associated with the SAR. I think the facts surrounding an equipment issue are essential, and I add it again

below.

When I was writing Missing 411: Hunters, I came across a cluster of missing sportsmen in an area within 5 miles from Lake Superior on the Wisconsin- Michigan border. On November 21, 1948, Frank Naslund went hunting with three other friends in this exact area. Sometime in the early morning hours, the men separated to hunt. Three of the four hunters made it back to their vehicles at lunch. Frank didn't arrive, and a search was initiated.

Late in the afternoon on November 22, Frank found a fire cut and followed it until he came to a roadway and got assistance. The reason this story is here is for what Frank told a reporter in a November 23, 1948, article in the Rhinelander Daily News: "He said his compass was not functioning properly and he built a fire alongside a creek and spent a night there."

A malfunctioning compass is a factor in disappearances that nobody has addressed. Anomalies in the environment that would cause a compass to malfunction are a fascinating topic to explore. In Frank's case, we don't know if he had a broken compass or something in the environment that caused Frank's instrument to malfunction. If it was something in the atmosphere, could this contribute to many of the disappearances in this and other areas? With the advancements made in GPS technology, people carry trail guides and other items based on this technology. The compass has taken a backseat to GPS in need to determine location, direction, and route. I realize that various types of rocks can a ect the materials used in the manufacture of a compass. Could rocks have had an impact on how the compass operated? Could something else have been happening in Frank's location that impacted how it functioned? This is good food for thought. Now take the issue of the compass and transfer that to instruments on airplanes. Could the crashes in the triangles be related to some atmospheric anomaly that e ects engines and devices? If a compass is malfunctioning on the ground, could the same be happening above?

Notes

Many of you will mark this book up extensively with notes and thoughts on cases; I encourage this. I've had readers tell me that they've read each book three or four times to absorb raw facts better. In each case, I have attempted to leave several notes to identify source material. Many of the case facts came directly from SAR and law enforcement reports.

The NPS has given me the designation of a “Commercial Requestor” for all FOIA requests. This essentially means they can charge me up to four times what they charge the average citizen for documents and materials. This is a blatant attempt to detract us from requesting and obtaining missing person reports, as they know we can’t a ord those outrageous prices. Many of you have stepped forward and o ered to seek case files on our behalf and allow our research to continue; this is sincerely appreciated. Your continued and ongoing support is needed for us to further our work. My contact information is on the last page of this book.

Cluster Maps

This is the first time we include a state cluster map with a book. The mapping of cases is critical to understand the flow of incidents, the topography of the area an incident occurs, and the sexes associated with specific clusters. The state map included with this book contains bright orange circles, representing a cluster of missing people.

In reviewing the Montana cluster map, you will see a dearth of cases in the state’s far eastern section. This area starts a section of the United States center that goes from north to south, where there is a distinct shortage of cases that include North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. I refer you to our North America Cluster map for reference.

Our team has had over thirty maps sent to us where readers think they match our North America Cluster map. These submissions include geographical, topographical, crypto, railroads, and everything else you can imagine.

Almost everyone observes the North America Cluster map di erently. We have identified 59 clusters of missing people in North America. When we start to map state by state, as we did Montana, we recognize there are many more mini clusters that we ever understood. The mapping of cases is critical to understand the distribution of the missing. We encourage everyone to obtain the North America Cluster map, put it on the wall in your o ice; it will be an immediate conversation starter that will hopefully lead to answers.

Montana Missing Persons by Date

The incidents cited in this chapter will shock some people. These stories are an example that truth is stranger than fiction. If I wrote these in a fictional account of camping in the mountains, readers

would laugh and say, “impossible.” Unfortunately these are true stories that have happened in remote areas of Montana.

Sex* Name Date/Time Missing* Age

M* Patrick Murphy 05/01/1896—3p.m.* Unk

M* Alexis Bork 11/07/1896—p.m.* Unk

F* William Dunphy’s

Daughter 09/02/1903—Unk* Infant

M* William Quay 11/1904* 30

M* James Twohig 12/01/1905* Unknown

M* Orville Tuttle 11/21/1910—4 p.m.* 23

M* Kenneth Crandall 03/13/1916—6p.m.* 2 1/2

F* Annie Brown 06/04/21—3p.m.* 4

M* William Symes 10/29/21—2 p.m.* 35

F* Viola Jauran 05/21/23-p.m.* 4

M* Joseph Whitehead 08/25/24* 29

M* William Whitehead 08/25/24* 22

F* Alice Pazolla 06/07/25—5p.m.* 3

M* John Houghland 11/15/26* 32

M* Chris Wheeler 08/05/29* 35

M* William Faber 07/20/34 at 5 p.m.* 74

M* Dr. Frederick Lumley 08/13/34* 27

M* Walter Orndor Jr. 05/31/36—5p.m.* 16 years

M* Murray Walkup Miller 10/24/36—Unk« 9

M* Clarence Dorey 10/16/38« 24

M* William Hoskina 10/16/38« 20

M* Paul Praast 11/02/42« Unknown

M* Elmer Nulk 08/15/46—p.m.« 19 mos.

M* Tommy Pugsley 04/19/47—p.m.« 2

M* Arnie Olson 08/11/47—5:00 p.m.« 4

M* George Loftus 11/06/47*38

M* Judd McWilliams 09/16/48« 82

F* Catherine Keeney 06/04/50—3 p.m.« 75 F* Dianne Cox 07/23/50 at 5 p.m.« 2

M* Edgar Humphrey 11/13/50« 84

M* Jerry Monkman 04/25/53—5 p.m.« 11

F* Patty Ann McLean 07/04/53—2:30p.m.« 3

M* Herman Spieker 10/02/53« 86

M* Donald Fain 10/03/53« 13

F* Ida May Curtis 07/04/55—6 p.m.« 2

F* Mary Gay Bent 07/13/58—3p.m.« 5

M* Lawrence E. Prange 08/14/58—Unk« 20

M* Sam Adams 10/27/58—Unk« 39

M* William Cormack 07/22/59« 55

M* Ernest Bru ey 08/20/59« 38

M* Arthur Jordan 11/08/59« 59

M* Bill Whitney 08/20/60« 70

M* Fritz Frey 11/14/60« 65

M* Delmar Berg 10/21/61*21

M* William Weller 08/02/62* 76

M* David Wilson 07/21/63*21

M* Kenneth Gelston 07/24/64* 22

M* Timothy Schock 11/23/75-p.m.*22

M* Joseph Zorko 08/08/76—10 p.m.* 26

F* Patton Seifert 02/23/79* 29

F* Megan Ginevicz 04/30/80—3:15 p.m.* 2

M* Tracy Cray 02/13/83* 26

F* Nyleen Kay Marshall 06/25/83—4p.m.* 4

M* Curtis Holeman 07/22/84—5p.m.* 31

M* Glenn Carr 10/25/84* 40

M* David Partlow 05/09/87* 29

M* Brendan O'Connor 07/30/88* 22

M* Dan Wilson 08/24/88* 35

M* Dan Campbell 04/08/91* 42 M* Jeremy Moors 07/28/95* 24

M* Patrick T Whalen 11/02/00* 33

M* Allen Theis 11/23/03* 52

M* Robert Springfield 09/19/04—4p.m.* 49

F* Barbara Bolick 07/18/07—1 p.m.* 55

M* Wyatt Little Light 12/23/08—Unk* 1 Month

06/06/13* 58

M* Dietmar Munhofen M* 08/26/14* 56 George Alex Baumanr M* Aaron Hedges 09/07/14* 38

Patrick Murphy

Missing: May 1, 1896,-Yaak Mine

Age at Disappearance: Unknown

Point of Separation* Hunter*

Patrick Murphy worked at the Yaak mine and lived part-time with his brother on a ranch in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

Montana's northwest corner is still one of the most remote regions of any of the fifty states. I was recently in Yaak and spent the day in the area. When you look at a map of this region, you'll understand how undeveloped this region truly is. It is also one of the areas of the state with the most Grizzly bears.

On May 1, 1896, Murphy and his friend, Ed Ensor, a fellow miner, decided they'd spend the after-noon hunting. The pair left the camp at 3 p.m. A May 14, 1896, article in the Missoulian had these details, "When a mile or two from camp, the hunters separated, as hunters do, and that was the last ever seen or heard of the missing man." Ensor returned to camp, and Patrick never arrived.

The same article stated that 25-40 men left camp every day searching for Patrick. Nothing was ever found. The same report noted this, "The generally accepted theory now is that he must have lost his way in some manner, became bewildered, and wandered around until he perished of hunger or exposure."

Friends and relatives of Patrick described him in perfect health and the prime of his life.

Alexis Bork

Missing: November 7,1896, Flathead Mountains Age at Disappearance: Unknown

Religion* Unknown Cause of Death

Reverend Bork was known as a valley Methodist preacher from Chicago who traveled to several churches to preach. He was known as a man that was deeply religious.

I found one article on this incident dated, November 10, 1896, from the Courier Post with the following headlines, "Young Minister Victim of Wild Beast." This is a strange headline even for 1896. The article stated that Bork was a preacher and had gone with a hunting party on November 5 to the Flathead Mountains outside of Troy, Montana. He did go hunting on Thursday with a group and returned; he again went out alone on Saturday and did not return.

On Sunday, a search team was organized to locate Reverend Bork. Here is what the article stated:

“Several miles from the camp, the searchers found blood on the snow and later came to a place where it was evident that a terrible struggle had taken place. A trail in the snow led some distance to a point where the body of the young minister was found mangled, tom, and frozen. It was evident that Bork had been attacked and overcome by some animal, which afterward dragged the body to the spot where it was found.”

Case Summary

This is a highly unusual case because bears in Montana are hibernating by mid-November. It’s evident from the article that the writers and sources in Montana had no idea what could’ve killed the preacher, and the article didn’t make any mention that he had been consumed.

This area around Troy is still wild today. As you read on in this book, you will see other very unusual stories in this part of Montana. The region north of Troy near Yaak is probably one of the wildest areas anywhere in the northwest where few people travel.

William Dunphy’s Daughter

Missing: September 2,1903-Unk, Hills Outside of Ewing Age at Disappearance: “Infant”

Ewing is now a ghost town in southern Montana just ten miles north of Wyoming. There is one building in the city that was supposedly renovated for a local park ranger. The scenery around the town is gorgeous, with high peaks and big mountains. As an interesting side note, as you drive towards Ewing, there is a turnout at a location called “Devils Canyon,” where the city can be seen.

I found a series of articles describing this event, with the first being near the beginning of September 1903. The articles state that on approximately September 2, 1903, the William Dunphy family lived in the hills above Ewing while Mr. Dunphy was prospecting. One day, the: “infant daughter was carried o one afternoon by a wild animal,” The Clinton Morning, August 23, 1903.

There was no information on the type of animal that carried o the girl, but there was information that there was an extensive search.

In the same article quoted above, it described what Dunphy was doing after the daughter vanished: “While Dunphy was hunting in the mountains, he came on a wolf den which showed signs of being occupied. He waited for a long time and then entered as no wolf came forth, he decided to enter the den and see for himself what was in it. As he entered the place, he heard the cry of a child. Advancing, he saw a sight that almost turned his hair white. Lying on a bed of grass at the end of the den was a big mother wolf with several pups beside her, while at her side was his lost baby, trying her best to get supper from the mother wolf. The wolf simply frowned when the man approached and made no attempt to escape.”

Dunphy got his daughter back. She wasn’t injured and was supposedly well-nourished and uninjured. Newspapers in Red Lodge Montana had this story validated by two other residents of Ewing. There was never any additional clarity as to the size of the wolf or further specific details of the recovery.

Case Summary

I’ve written about other young girls that were supposedly taken by something described as a large wolf or bear. This is the first article I ever found where an adult got a close view of the abductor.

In case you were not aware, news articles in the late 1800s and early 1900 usually did not include children’s names in reports. They described children with their association with a parent. The fact that Dunphy’s daughter’s name wasn’t in this article was not unique.

I view the location of this incident as unique and essential. Ewing was a very remote city. The Dunphy’s lived in the hills outside the town, extremely remote. Missing 411: Western United States, I did write about other incidents involving children taken in Montana by mammals described as wolves or bears.

I did a YouTube video of this incident on my channel, CanAm Missing Project. The responses to the facts of this case were overwhelmingly apprehensive that this was a wolf. Many viewers stated that they could not imagine a wolf frowning when the man entered, maybe growling or jerking up. We will never honestly know what happened in that underground den in September of 1903.

William Quay

Missing: November 1904, East Fork Spring Creek, SE of Lewistown

Age at Disappearance: 30 years

This is one of those cases that o ers a lot of international intrigue, few leads that amount to a clear solution, and a gorgeous backdrop for the location.

William Quay came to Montana in 1902 from Scotland. He settled at the headwaters of the East Fork of Spring Creek, southeast of Lewistown. He developed a nice piece of land for farming and was raising fifteen head of cattle. He was thought to be a man of wealth, as money never seemed to be an issue. He got along quite well with his neighbors and o ered to share much of what locals needed.

The background on William was described in this June 21, 1905, edition of the Fergus County Argus, “He raised some good crops and gathered a bunch of stock on his place and while thriving in a material way, won the goodwill of his neighbors. Last fall, he laid in his supplies for the winter, and the last time he was ever seen, took a couple of horses to a neighbor stating that he would call for them the next day. He failed to appear, and soon afterward, a visit to his place revealed the fact that he was not there. Quay lived alone on the ranch, and the house was found to be in good order. The neighbors waited for some time and finally reported the matter to authorities., with the result being sheri Slater and County attorney Ayers visiting Rogers and made a careful inquiry as to what happened.” O icials were almost three months behind the last time Quay was seen. There is no doubt that this delay in the investigation hindered the chance of understanding what may have happened. As Fergus County o icials looked into the Quay case, they discovered something that rarely comes to a rural Montana rancher, a fortune waiting to be collected. The County attorney found that William Quay

had inherited a fortune from Scotland. William knew about his inheritance before he disappeared and had not told anyone but his close friends. In the months after his disappearance, attorneys in Scotland had made inquiries in Fergus County to contact Quay and ask him to collect his funds. Once Sheri Slater heard about the fortune, rumors started to swirl that maybe Quay had been murdered, but this made no sense because he hadn’t collected his money.

As months went by, newspapers and friends continued to push the agenda that Quay had been murdered and his remains would be found during a spring search after the snow had melted.

The spring of 1905 brought multiple searches of the Quay property,

mountains surrounding his valley, and the many creeks and streams in the area: nothing was found.

The summer of 1905 came, and the following article explained what searchers were up against and is described in this June 27, 1905, article in the Fergus County Democrat, “The search which was arranged for the purpose of trying to find the body of William Quay last Thursday was abandoned on account of bad weather. It will be some time before the search will be made but the people around Rogers are confident that a thorough search will solve the problem of the man’s mysterious disappearance.” O icials waited for July until they attempted another extensive search for Quay’s remains. The e ort brought up to thirty members of the community who again scoured the countryside and found nothing.

The Fergus County o icials were adamant they would find Quay’s body after the snow melted. I think many public o icials were embarrassed when they found nothing in the spring and summer of 1905. The case went silent, and Quay never obtained his fortune from Scotland. The theory that he was maybe alive and went to his former country to live was not valid. There were no leads, no more theories, nothing.

There was nothing new on the William Quay case until a news article appeared in the June 6, 1913, edition of the Roundup Record, “The mystery surrounding the disappearance of William Quay, a young Scotch rancher, over eight years ago may be solved at last. A few days ago, Judd McWilliams, a well-known resident of McDonald Creek country, went up to the Snowy Mountains hunting coyotes. His quest took him into some unfrequented spots, and at one of these, he noticed a man’s skull and an old canteen. The skull and canteen had evidently dropped from the rimrock above, which had given away. Mr. McWilliams did not look further but returning reported the matter to o icers. An investigation will be made.” Remember that name, Judd McWilliams; you will hear about his case later in the book.

Articles of the time stated that Quay usually carried a canteen, but that wasn’t unusual for the early 1900s. The sheri searched the area where the skull was found and did not find any other evidentiary items, and from the best I can determine, it was never proven that the skull was Quay. The only reason for Quay to be in that part of the mountains in November would be hunting. If he was hunting, he had a rifle, and a search would’ve produced this.

An investigation into the disappearance of a rural rancher in 1904 is handled quite di erently from a case today. Law enforcement knows to

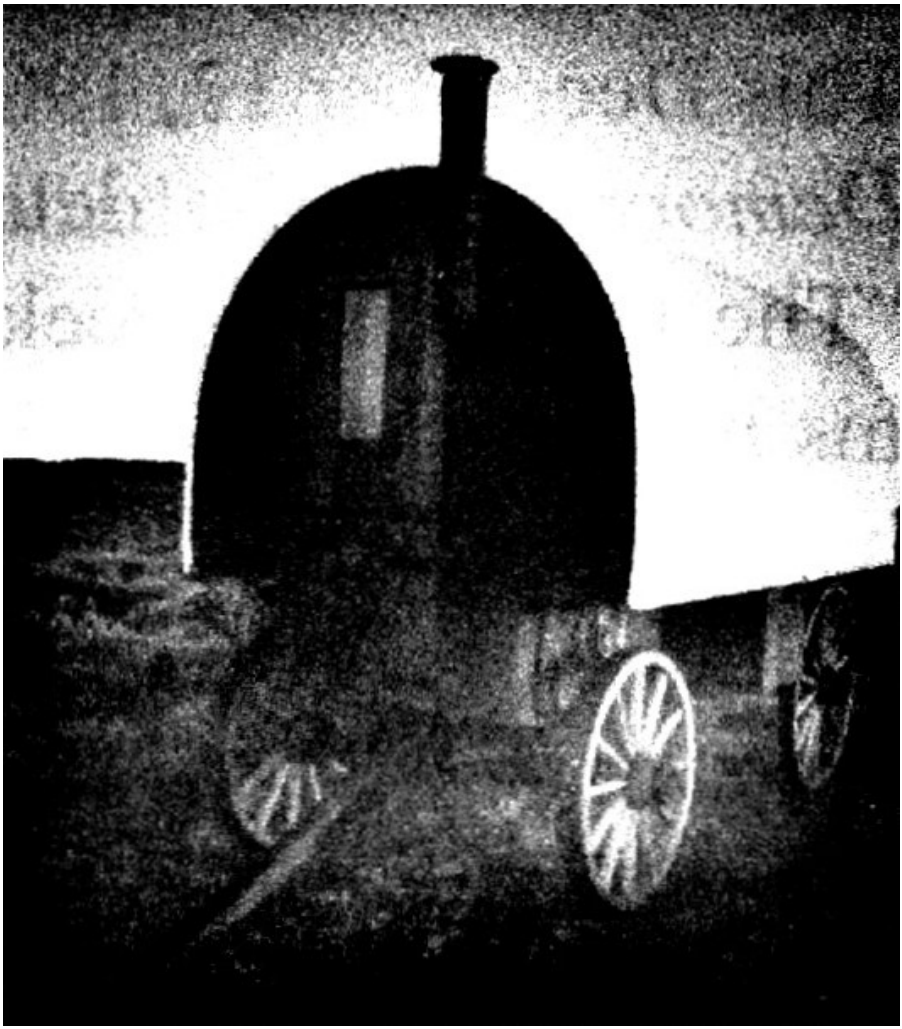
start an inquiry quickly in the twenty-first century wherein 1904 communication was slow, and resources were lacking. In the early 1900s, there wasn't anything close to the forensic tools that are available to law enforcement today. There could be blood splatter on walls and carpets that were cleaned by the suspects in the 1900s, and nobody would ever know. Chemicals today can bring out blood that stained these surfaces, a massive break for law enforcement. There are hundreds of other tools that never existed one hundred years ago.

I go back to the time when Quay asked for a neighbor to watch his horses and that he was going to be gone for a few days. It was November, and that is hunting season. The skull that was found could've been Quay, but we will never know with certainty.

James Twohig

Missing: December 1, 1905, Gilt Edge Age at Disappearance: Unknown Weather*

This story is about an occupation that I have written about many times, sheepherders. This is a very lonely existence with weeks at a time without human contact. The herder may have a dog, a rifle, and his herd. The job is to keep the flock on the right property and keep predators away. The comforts of a sheepherders living quarters are slim. They live and sleep in a sheep wagon, about seven to eight feet wide and 12-16 feet long. The wagon usually has a small stove, sink, and bed. In the early 1900s, most wagon's were not insulated, and they would easily rock and roll in heavy weather.



James Twohig was a veteran of the civil war and was also collecting a pension. He had made his way to Montana and worked as a sheepherder for a local Gilt Edge company. Other herders had stated that James was a very hard worker, cared deeply for his flock. He was also a proud member of the local Masonic Hall and wore a pin on his clothing. This April 3, 1906, article in the Fergus County Democrat explained what happened, “Several citizens from the other side of Gilt Edge have requested the Democrat to bring the attention of the County Commissioners to the fact that the body of James Twohig, who undoubtedly perished in the storm which raged over the country last November, has never been found, and that there has been no e ort and that there hasn’t been no e ort on the part of any authorities to find the body of the missing man, although the facts of his certain death have frequently been laid before them. Twohig, who was a

veteran of the Civil War and generally respected by all who knew him, was herding for John Roche. When the storm came on, with the devotion of his kind, he remained with his band instead of seeking shelter. When he didn't come back in a few days, his employer, Roche, started out looking for him."

In this day and age, it would be hard to find an employer willing to put their own life in jeopardy to save an employee, but that is precisely what happened here. This December 12,1905, article in the Fergus County Democrat has the details of the search for Twohig, "The first of last week Roche started out to look up his herder, Twohig, who was lost in the storm which had been raging for several days. He failed to find the herder but instead, was himself lost and wandered around for four days without food or shelter. More by accident than any other way, he managed to stumble into his camp Thursday evening. He was practically unconscious and remained so for several hours. His lower limbs were frightfully frozen, and it was decided to bring him to Lewistown."

John Roche was a courageous and honorable man. While being taken to Lewistown, he took a turn for the worst, and they had to stop at another ranch on the other side of Gilt Edge. A few hours after this last stop, John died.

There were multiple searches the following spring made by other herders looking for James; he was never found. I've thought about the night sky above the herders; it must be majestic, with no city lights, the darkness around you, and the quietness of the open range. The peacefulness must occasionally be interrupted by predators of all types, that would be frightening.

There were a lot of rumors about what may have happened to James; all were rumors. He was a mature and smart man that knew when storms were coming. It would be hard to understand why he hadn't sought shelter at the time of a massive storm.

James Twohig was never found.

Orville Tuttle

Missing: November 21,1910—4 p.m., McAllister Age at Disappearance: 23 years

Weather* Point of Separation* Cluster* Hunter

In our second movie, Missing 411: The Hunted, we included the story

of Aaron Hedges in Montana also in this book that got separated from his hunting partners. After not hearing from their friend, they reported the disappearance to the sheri . Search and rescue personnel went deep into the wilderness and found the missing hunter's boots sitting together near a creek. SAR did a massive search and couldn't locate the person and eventually called o the mission. The missing person's skeleton was finally found miles from where his boots were discovered, indicating he somehow crossed over 6 miles of snow boulder fields. Nothing about the story in the movie made any sense to the head of that search and rescue mission. The story I am about to present to you has eerie similarities to the Hedges story.

Tn early November of 1910, Whitehall, Montana resident, 23-year-old Orville Tuttle, had an excellent job as a locomotive engineer. This October 20, 1911, article in the Billings Weekly described Orville, "He had been raised in the Je erson Valley. He had many friends in Bozeman and was known as a fearless hunter, a crack shot, and a cool-headed conservative man." Near the beginning of November 1910, Orville left for the Upper Madison Valley Elk Hunting. He had traveled to the area that borders the national park and then waited for bulls to come out. He had been waiting for the herd to migrate out of the high country near Yellowstone and move to the lower elevations. The big game hadn't moved, and Orville saw nothing. On October 21, 1910, Orville, his younger brother Rollie, and his cousin Jack Morrison left their residence and traveled to the Upper Madison Valley near Teepee Creek. Jack told authorities that Orville was a very experienced hunter and left camp early in the morning and was tracking an elk who was leaving a trail in the snow. Orville told his partners that he'd follow it for no more than an hour and then be back. The hunters waited until evening, and Orville never made it back to camp. This December 12, 1910, article in the Butte Miner had these details, "Early the next morning Jack Morrison, C.E. Morrison, Frank Morrison and Rollie Tuttle, the other members of the party began a search for their missing companion. They had no di iculty following his tracks to Teepee Creek and three miles along the creek. They found where he attempted to build a fire, but evidently, his matches were wet as the kindling had no lighted. His tracks led to the creek bank where they were lost. He had walked in the bed of the creek, which at no point is more than ankle-deep, to avoid deep snow, but they could find no tracks leading out of the creek, though they explored it up and down for several miles." The hunting group sent a member back to the city to get the sheri and additional support for their search.

The formal search started on November 22 and increased in size as the days went by. Searchers eventually were exhausted from their e orts

and the falling snow. The snow was so deep, and the weather so cold, articles stated that hunters shot their horses.

In the fall of 1911, Mrs. Tuttle enlisted her other son, John, and a family friend to search for Orville. The woman was possessed with the idea of finding her boy. As they searched, they also had the assistance of a game guide from Virginia City. The group searched into the same type of weather that causes Orville to vanish, a blazing snowstorm, and they had to stop. They claimed that they had covered every foot of land in the area in a very systematic and precise pattern; they were grief-stricken.

In October, there was a significant development in the case as is stated in the October 20, 1911, article in the Billings Weekly Gazette, “Only one short glimpse was ever had of him (Orville), and even that may have been another hunter. H.F. Henningsen of Butte had joined the search and, on the third day, towards evening, after the disappearance, discovered a pair of shoes beside a recent campfire. The snow had been scraped away and fuel brought from the drifts left by the blizzard. It was evident that the builder of the fire had removed his shoes to thaw out his feet. Either the pain became so intense that he wandered away in delirium, or he was unable to replace the boots on his swollen feet. His tracks, made by bare feet, were followed some distance in the gathering dusk by Mr. Henningsen. Finally, about 125 yards away, across a deep ravine, he espied the dim figure of a man making his way through the heavy timber. Henningsen called and fired several shots, but the man paid no heed and disappeared over the crest of the mountain. Darkness was coming on with heavy snowfall; Mr. Henningsen marked the spot and returned with some di iculty to camp. The next morning it was impossible to trace the path taken by the man seen the evening before.” When Mr. Henningsen made his observation, there were hundreds of people combing the hillside looking for Orville. The possibility that he happened to see another hunter seems highly improbable; everyone in that area would know about Orville and would be out of the area hunting or in the region searching. The fact the figure never stopped once shots were fired seems profoundly strange. If you are hunting and hear shots go o nearby, I can guarantee you are going to stop and look to ensure they aren’t firing at you. Since the figure crossed over a ridge and disappeared, the question has to be asked, where was it going? The SAR camp was at the bottom of the hill and in the opposite direction of the ridgetop.

The search eventually terminated without finding a trace of Orville. The following spring, Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle vowed to bring their son

home and enlisted dozens of friends and relatives. They scoured every inch of the area in which Orville was lost, and they found nothing.

There were multiple massive searches for Orville, both in the snow and the following spring. They never found tracks in the snow after Orville's were lost in the creek, a very odd turn of events. The number of hunters involved in that initial effort tells me that they thoroughly looked for tracks coming out of the creek; there was none. Where could he have gone? A hunter who removes his shoes because of frozen feet needs assistance immediately. The best way to attract attention and ask for assistance is to fire o three rounds from your rifle in rapid succession, the universal hunting call for help. There were a few people who claimed they heard two shots fired earlier in the SAR, this could not be confirmed.

This incident happened in a known cluster zone of three missing men and one female. The cluster sits inside of 8 miles from the Wyoming border and Yellowstone National Park.

Case Summary

The sighting made by searchers in the year after Orville's disappearance was of someone in the woods, but who? Many reports indicate that it was felt that Orville had removed his boots and crossed the snow for hundreds of yards without being seen. How does anyone know that this was Orville walking barefoot through snowfields?

I did a massive archive search on this disappearance. Orville Tuttle, his rifle and supplies were never found.

Kenneth Crandall

Missing: March 13, 1916, 6p.m., Shepherd

Age at Disappearance: 2 1/2 years

The Crandall's lived on a ranch nine miles northwest of Shepherd Montana. The Shepherd residence was located approximately twenty miles northeast of Billings and eight miles south of a series of mountains. The area between the home and mountains was mostly filled with dry sagebrush.

On March 13, 1916, the Crandall's finished dinner, and Kenneth went outside to play. Nearly two hours after dinner Mrs. Crandall went to look for her son and could not find him. It was also at about this time

that she realized that Kenneth's Collie (dog) was gone. The parents searched for several hours until they felt they needed assistance and made the drive into Shepherd to summon help from the sheri .

Deputy Sipe responded to the Crandall ranch and took charge of the search. Everyone was initially concerned with nearby Razor Creek. The water flow in the creek was minimal, and it was searched and discounted. Hundreds of locals volunteered to scour the countryside looking for the boy. There were hundreds of ranchers and farmers on horseback looking everywhere around the Crandall property.

Three days after Kenneth vanished, Kenneth's Collie returned home, obviously very hungry. The Crandall's fed the dog, and it immediately started to whine as though it wanted the family to trail it. The Crandall's started to follow the dog as is described in this March 25 article in the Yellowstone News: "The animal, greatly excited, followed the trail to a crossroads six miles from the ranch." It was at this point that searchers found Kenneth's lifeless body laid over a bush. Authorities stated he died from exposure and starvation.

Case Summary

It's hard to imagine that searchers ever believed that Kenneth could have wandered six miles from his residence; thus, the rescuers didn't find him. The deputy sheri stated that it was thought that Kenneth died inside the first twenty-four hours. If he did die that quickly, I don't believe the boy starved to death, that's impossible; he had just eaten dinner. It's also hard to believe that any boy could have hiked six miles while only two and a half years old. I remember when I worked with Les Stroud, Survivorman, when someone travels 5 miles across country o the trail, nobody travels just five miles, it's more like 8-12 miles. Using Les's analogy, this meant that Kenneth traveled 9-12 miles! Every SAR manual in existence states that a boy of Kenneth's age should be located 2 miles or less 95% of the time from the point they were last observed.

In researching the articles describing this disappearance, there was quite a variety of descriptions of the boy. Some reports stated the boy was three years old; some said the boy was found just a mile from his ranch; it is truly amazing how some papers can twist the story and get it so wrong.

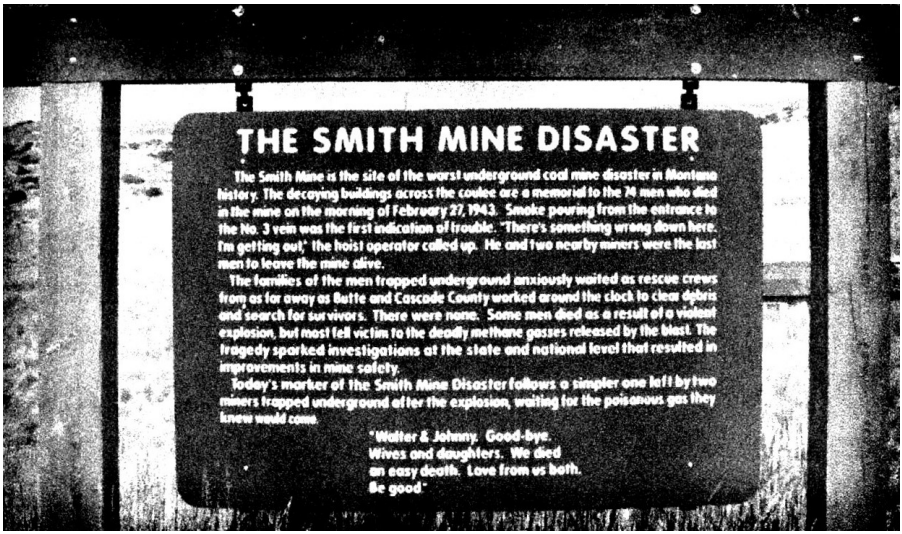
Annie Brown

Missing: June 4, 1921, 3 p.m., Washoe Age at Disappearance: 4 years

Water* Point of Separation

This disappearance location was Washoe, Montana, two miles west of Red Lodge and twelve miles north of the Wyoming border. This small city was a thriving mining location near the start of the twentieth century. In 1907, the Washoe Coal Company was created, and they started digging the coal mine. The town did well until the worst mining disaster in Montana history hap-pened in February of 1943 with the Smith Mine Disaster. An explosion occurred in Smith Mine #3 and killed seventy-four men. There is a large memorial at the site of the tragedy.

On June 4,1921, the Brown family lived in Washoe, and Annie was with other kids picking wildflowers.


THE SMITH MINE DISASTER
The Smith Mine is the site of the worst underground coal mine disaster in Montana history. The decaying buildings across the coulee are a memorial to the 74 men who died in the mine on the morning of February 27, 1943. Smoke pouring from the entrance to the No. 3 vein was the first indication of trouble. "There's something wrong down here. I'm getting out," the hoist operator called up. He and two nearby miners were the last men to leave the mine alive.
The families of the men trapped underground anxiously waited as rescue crews from as far away as Butte and Cascade County worked around the clock to clear debris and search for survivors. There were none. Some men died as a result of a violent explosion, but most fell victim to the deadly methane gasses released by the blast. The tragedy sparked investigations at the state and national level that resulted in improvements in mine safety.
Today's marker of the Smith Mine Disaster follows a simpler one left by two miners trapped underground after the explosion, waiting for the poisonous gas they knew would come.
"Walter & Johnny. Good-bye.
Wives and daughters. We died
an easy death. Love from us both.
Be good"

At approximately 1 p.m, Mrs. Brown went to look for her daughter and failed to locate her. This June 11, 1921, article in the Billings Gazette explained the circumstances of the disappearance, “Mystery surrounds the disappearance of Annie Brown, the four-year-old daughter of Mrs. George Brown of Washoe, who was last seen at her home Saturday afternoon at about 1 o’clock when she left the house to join other children in picking flowers on the hillside.” Annie got out of sight of the other children and somehow vanished.

It was 3 p.m. that Mrs. Brown sounded the alarm and asked for assistance to look for her daughter. It was first feared that Annie might have fallen into the nearby creek. As darkness fell, the searchers concentrated on land and then committed resources to raking and scanning the stream the following day.

Two days after the disappearance, a report came to the town that someone saw the young girl walking the hillsides outside of the city. The entire city and mine shut down and committed three hundred men to scour all of the mountains in the area for several days, nothing was found.

Many people in the town did not believe the girl fell into the creek based on her last location on the hillside. The hill location would have matched the point that another person saw her in the hills. Dozens of people searched the creek countless times and never found Annie. Hundreds of men committed days to explore the mountain over and over again, finding nothing.

Annie Brown disappeared in a cluster zone of five people, three females, and two men. The three females are an unusual tight grouping of just females.

William Symes

Missing: October 29, 1921, 2 p.m., Castner Coulee Age at Disappearance: 35 years

Water* Disability/Illness

Castner Coulee is a small rural area twelve miles southwest of Great Falls on the Missouri River's south side. The land in this area was and is still predominantly flat farms. In October of 1921, David Symes was the owner of a large farm in Castner Coulee and was well known in the greater Great Falls region. David had a thirty- five-year-old son, William, who was in the Army and stationed at Camp Lewis when he came down with a severe pneumonia attack. The illness was so intense that the Army sent William home. The exact date that he was discharged was never made clear.

The Symes ranch was adjacent to the Missouri River and several small creeks. This October 31, 1921, article in the Great Falls Tribune explained what happened on the Symes property, "According to the missing man's father, the son left home about 2 p.m. Saturday and has not been seen since. The sheri stated that the missing man has been sick for some time and was evidently delirious. Mr. Gordon is of the opinion that Symes has wandered to some farmhouse where he is unknown."

It wasn't long before Symes's news reached Great Falls and reports started coming in that he was seen in the city. There were also reports coming in from remote sheepherders saying they saw the man wandering through their land. The reports came from far and wide.

The disappearance of William Symes fell into the jurisdiction of Cascade County Sheri Bob Gordon. The formal search started on October 31, with the sheri assigning fifty people to comb the grounds of the Symes property, banks of the Missouri River, and the creeks in the region. There were rumors that footprints were found on the banks of streams, these were never confirmed to be anything related to the SAR. Creeks and rivers during this time of the year are shallow, making the search much more manageable. Deputies were sent into distant fields to speak with sheepherders. Law enforcement found that these sheepherder reports of seeing William were not credible.

As SAR teams were finding nothing on land, they started to turn their e orts elsewhere, as the headlines imply in the November 2, 1921, edition of the Great Falls Tribune, “Drag Streams in Search of William Symes.” The article goes on to say, “The third day of the search for William Symes of Castner Coulee, who left the home of the father Saturday afternoon and has not since been seen, only served to add to the mystery of the disappearance. Sheri Bob Gordon, who headed the new searching party organized Tuesday morning, and Deputy Sheri C. S. Dennis, returned Tuesday night with the report that no clues leading to his whereabouts had been found.”

The search for William went on for eight days. The deputies dragged rivers and creek for a body and found nothing. They put locals on horseback and covered the countryside and could not locate anyone who had a confirmed sighting of the sick man.

There are few credible answers to what happened to William Symes. Although not probable, it is possible that he fell into a river and or creek and got washed away, doubtful. William knew this area like you know your backyard; he knew where the dangers were located.

Knowing that William was seriously ill with pneumonia makes the thought of him walking miles across the farmland seem highly unlikely.

Viola Jauran

Missing: May 21, 1923, Noon, Arlee

Age at Disappearance: 4 years

Water* Cluster Zone Pay close attention to this location. During the presentations I made at conferences, I discuss the history behind specific sites; we’ve been taught that we study history for a reason. I have explained at presentations that law enforcement will rise and pay attention if three children disappear from the same geographical region in five years. If I spread the disappearances over 50 years, nobody will know, until now.

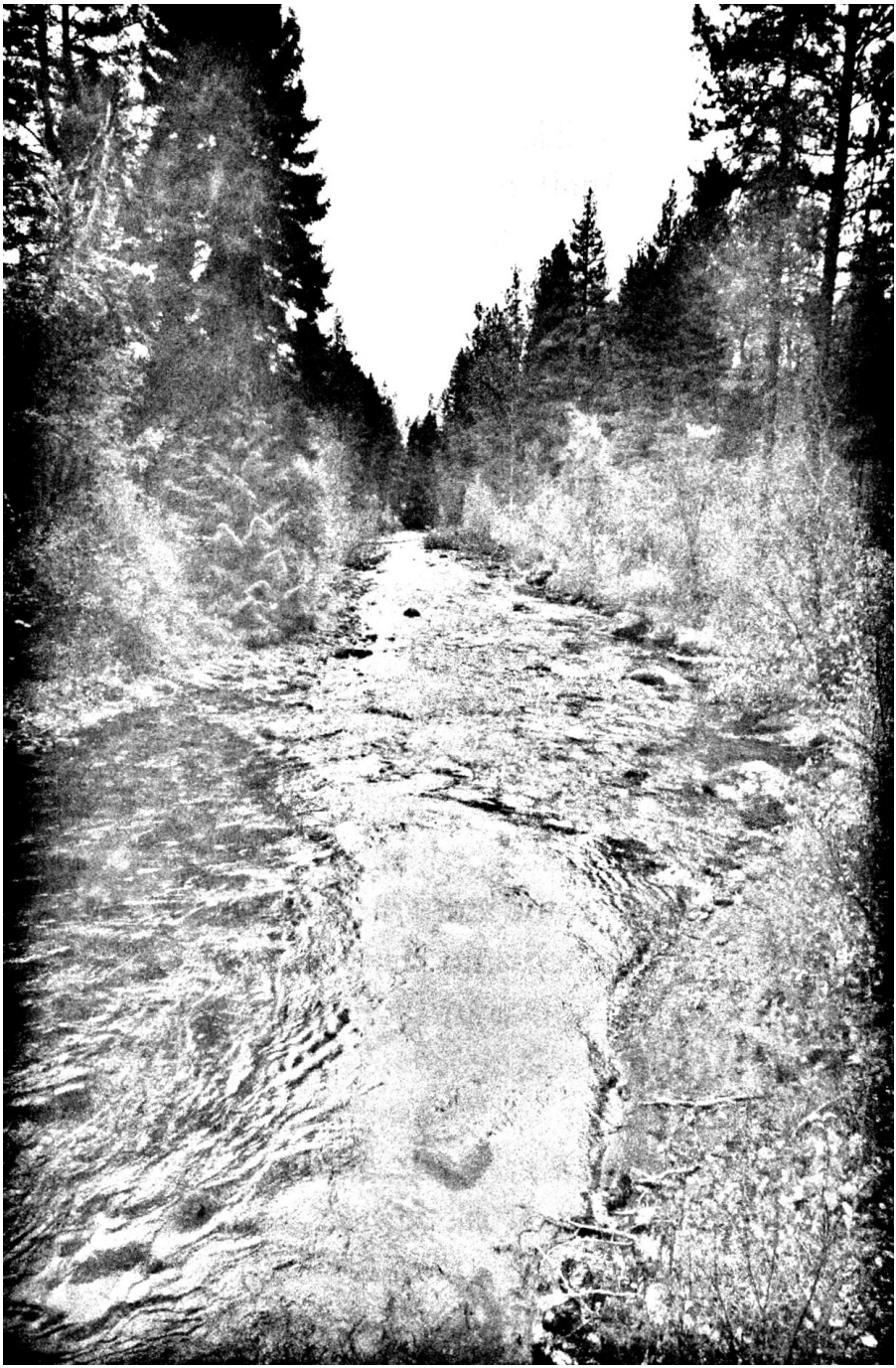
This incident’s location is one and a half miles east of Arlee Montana on the Jocko River. If we fast forward fifty-seven years to 1980, we find another very young girl that vanished, Megan Ginevicz. Megan disappeared from a rural homestead just five miles from Viola; you can find her story later in this chapter. If you travel twenty miles east over the top of the mountain, you will be at the location that Lawrence Prange disappeared. This is a tight cluster of two missing

girls and one young man.

On May 21, 1923, Viola was with her mom and stepdad at a softball game 1.5 miles east of Arlee adjacent to the Jocko River. The family was on the Flathead Indian Reservation for a community event. The late edition of the May 21, 1923, Independent Recordh ad these details, “A small bunch of wildflowers picked by the child shortly before she disappeared has been found. The flowers bear mute evidence that the child was frightened, as the tiny hand, at some time or another clutched the flowers so tightly as to crush them together.” Interestingly, the article mentioned Viola picking flowers. I have documented several very young girls that vanished while picking wildflowers.

Once the parents realized they couldn’t locate Viola, the game was stopped, and almost eighty people started searching. Some individuals believed that Viola might have wandered into the Jocko River. Friends posted people on railroad trestles 5 miles west of the event on the river looking for a body.

In the days after Viola disappeared, people in the community blasted all river dams to ensure they found the girl. The May 28,1923, edition of the Independent Record had these details, “Dragging and blasting of the Jocko River from the grove east to Arlee almost to Ravalli had been carried on since a week ago tonight failed to reveal the slightest trace of the four-year-old.



Jocko River, Arlee, Montana

Viola Jauran mysteriously vanished from a grove last Sunday afternoon.”

On May 28, an Indian medicine man held a seance on the bank of the Jocko River. After the ceremony, he stated that Viola had been abducted, a bag thrown over her head, taken to Ravalli or Dixon, and put on a train.

Another tribal member claimed to be an expert tracker claims he followed the girl's track to the Jocko River, where she went in. He did not have an explanation about why Viola was not located. There was also a claim in the newspaper that Viola's father was angry that she was in the custody of her mom, and it was a possibility that the father took her. There was never anything to support any of the three claims.

The total number of people searching for Viola was a number north of 100 daily. The ability to grab large numbers of people to leave their jobs and search for someone they probably do not know is impressive.

After twelve days of intensive searching, Viola was never found.

Joseph Whitehead, 29 years

William Whitehead, 22 years

Missing: August 24, 1924, Glacier National Park

Cluster Zone* No Tracks

**See cluster chapter under Glacier National Park for details.

Alice Pazolla

Missing: June 7, 1925, 5p.m., Walkerville

Age at Disappearance: 3 years

In June of 1925, the Pazolla family owned the Stringtown Dairy five miles north of Walkerville, which is just on Butte's north side. On June 7, 1925, at approximately 5 p.m., the Pazolla's lost track of their three-year-old daughter, Alice. They called her name, got ranch hands to search, and quickly got scared because she could not be found.

Stringtown Dairy put out the word to the community that a young girl was missing and asked for volunteers to search. As the family understood what happened, they realized that Alice had disappeared with the family's three-month-old puppy.

If you are a new reader, this disappearance may seem mundane; it is not. In Missing 411 Eastern United States, I wrote about a series of

children that vanished, many with their dog. Sometimes the canines were found alive, sometimes they were not.

Searchers worked through the night looking and calling for Alice. Nobody saw or heard anything. This June 10, 1925, article in the Anaconda Standard had these details, “Hugging her little “doggie,” and not much the worse for wear, little “Alice of Wonderland,” 3-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Pazolla, who operate the Stringtown Dairy five miles north of Walkerville was found yesterday afternoon trudging up Hall Columbia Gulch, nearly six miles over rugged timbered mountains from the ranch home she had wandered away from Sunday evening.” The girl was found by a ranch hand who continued searching nonstop from the time she vanished.

It is probably a good idea that the ranch hand was not trained in search and rescue, or he would never have been in the location where Alice was found. SAR manuals state that 95% of all children Alice’s age will be located 95% of the time in two miles or less from the point last seen. It is tough for me to believe that a three-year-old girl would be walking up a gulch and carrying a puppy after being gone almost 24 hours without food and water. There is no doubt that the girl had to sleep during darkness, meaning she wasn’t on her feet and moving the entire time she was missing. There was never any statement from the girl explaining what she did or where she went.

There are three cases of only missing girls that I have documented that include Alice’s case. All of the girls disappeared within a twenty-mile radius. This is the tightest geographical cluster of missing girls anywhere in the state of Montana. This is one of the tightest geographical clusters of missing girls anywhere in the world. All of the girls were found far outside the standard distance a young person would travel, and all were lost in a forest environment.

John Houghland

Missing: November 15, 1926, Clinton

Age at Disappearance: 32 years

Weather* Canines* Point of Separation* Disability/ Illness

When you work with historical disappearances, you also have to deal with a lack of information. Many times, articles from the early 1900s did not include the age of victims. I don’t understand why they are stated in some events and not in others. In this incident, the age of the victim was not included in anything I found.

John B. Houghland was a World War veteran living in Clinton, Montana, twenty miles southeast of Missoula. The story starts with this November 19, 1926, edition of the Independent Record, “Houghland, in the company with two other men, departed Monday morning on a hunt for deer. A short distance from Clinton, they separated. At the appointed time, the survivors met, but Houghland failed to show up. A search was instituted immediately.”

The search for the war veteran was thorough and sophisticated. Deputy Sheri Tinklepaugh of the Grant County Sheri ’s O ice took charge of the SAR. Searchers were challenged from the beginning as is described in this December 9, 1926, article in the Great Falls Tribune, “Heavy snow the first night he was missed obliterated all tracks, and although Bloodhounds were secured to trace him, no clue has been found.” The search produced a dead deer that they thought John had killed. They also believed they had found tracks that might have been his. One week after the investigation started, the sheri stated that they believed the hunter would be found soon. They further said that they felt the missing man was in a cabin in Gilbert Gulch. Another hunter had reported seeing a hunter in the woods and thought it might have been Houghland.

The search for Houghland took a one hundred and eighty-degree turn and is described in this November 23, 1926, article in the Anaconda Standard, “Mr. Tinklepaugh, with four others and Bloodhounds report no trace whatever of Houghland had been found, and it is conceded that he has perished. A detachment from Clinton will attempt today to locate the body. Deep snow, however, makes such discovery unlikely, it is reported.” The tracks that were reported days earlier were determined to be another sportsman that had been in the area.

Cold weather and deep snow ended the winter search for John Houghland.

On June 20, 1927, Houghland’s search was again on, focusing on the timber just one mile from Clinton. Here are the headlines in the June 22, 1927, edition of the Billings Gazette, “Hounds Will be Used in E ort to Locate Missing Man’s Body.” Fifteen soldiers participated as ground teams searching the wilderness. This SAR was coordinated by Theodore Shoemaker from the United States Forest Service; it covered eight square miles. They did find the remains of two hindquarters of a deer, nothing else. They believed the deer was a kill by Houghland. It was found on the lower ground, as though someone may have carried them downhill to that point. They thought that if someone had done this, they would’ve driven back to the scene after the snow dissipated

and pick them up.

One of the last paragraphs I could find ever written about Mr. Houghland was this, located in the July 11, 1927, edition of the Missoulian, “One thing was revealed yesterday which was not known in Missoula before. That Houghland was sickly and in no condition to be in the hills at the time. It also was learned that he was thinly clad.” This last statement just had me shaking my head. How could someone that was allegedly that sick vanish in an eight square mile region? How could someone that was that sickly climbs mountain to get out of the search grids? This does not make any sense. If the war veteran wasn’t well, I doubt he could’ve carried a deer downhill to the flatlands and then disappear.

After an extensive archival search, I found this article in the November 2, 1936, edition of the Missoulian explaining that Houghland’s remains were located, “The man’s bones were found by Roy Willis up the west fork of Nelson Creek while he was on a hunting trip.” Later in the same article was this, “Large search parties spent days in the hills searching for the man following his disappearance. Soldiers from Fort Missoula had been enlisted to search. Interested persons resumed the hunt for the man after the snows of spring had melted o , but it was not until ten years after the disappearance that Roy Willis found the remains where the man had perished, evidently from exposure in the rugged mountains.” The finding of the remains leaves me more confused.

How could Houghland’s remains had gone missing for ten years? How many pieces of remains could still be intact after ten winters?

Chris Wheeler

Missing: August 5, 1929, 2 Miles n/o Lohman

Age at Disappearance: 35 years

Water* Illness/Disability

It’s hard to imagine how di icult life was before ATVs, Jeeps, and farm machinery. The life of a sheepherder in Montana in the early 1900s was not easy. This story centers on the life of a rural herder.

In 1929, Chris Wheeler lived with his wife on their rural ranch two miles north of Lohman and twenty-five miles south of the Canadian border. Life at these times was di icult, and many could not a ord fences to protect their land. Other transient sheepherders would often

bring their animals onto other grounds to feed, hoping they wouldn't be seen; this is what appears to have happened to cause Chris to leave his home.

On the morning of August 5, 1929, Chris left his home and walked to the eastern end of his property on a sheepherder report on his land. This wasn't an unusual incident and didn't cause extreme excitement. He told his wife that he'd be back that night.

On Tuesday morning, August 6, Chris still had not arrived back at his ranch home, and his wife started to get nervous. Mrs. Wheeler knew her husband had heart attacks in the past, and his health was always a question. She waited till that evening and then traveled to Havre, where she reported to the sheri the incident.

The Hill County Sheri 's o ice took charge of the search for Chris Wheeler. The area of focus was just north of the Milk River. The sheri got the assistance of a plane from Havre Airways that covered the Wheeler ranch region and surrounding area. Several deputies were tasked with driving the dirt roads surrounding the county's ranches and farms, nothing was found.

The sheri found the herder encroaching on Chris's property, interviewed him extensively, and was told that he had never seen Mr. Wheeler. The sheri believed the man and continued searching for Chris.

The deputies found a man that believed he had seen Chris six miles north of Chinook, meaning Chris had walked over ten miles and slept in fields.

One week after the disappearance, the sheri decided to put additional aircraft in the sky. The land in this region did not have much ground cover, and an airplane can see anyone on the ground, especially with low flyovers. Another plane spent an entire day searching and found nothing. Simultaneously to the flight, fifteen men from the American Legion post in Chinook and another twenty-five from the post in Havre walked the field for three additional days looking for the herder.

After two weeks of extensive searching, the sheri had no idea where Chris Wheeler may have gone. Some reports that he was seen in Washington and other stories he might have gone north to live, all seemed baseless to the sheri .

If there was one area where a plane should see anything on the ground, it's the area that Chris Wheeler disappeared. The fact that the rancher could not be found seemed unreal.

William F. Faber

Missing: July 20,1934, 5 p.m., Two Medicine Chalet, Glacier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 74 years

National Park Cluster* Distance Traveled* Found in Water* Religious A iliation

**See cluster chapter under Glacier National Park for details.

Dr. Frederick H. Lumley

Missing : August 13, 1934, Glacier National Park Age at Disappearance: 27 years

National Park Cluster* Intellect* Point of Separation **See cluster chapter under Glacier National Park for details.

Walter Orndor Jr.

Missing: May 31, 1936, 5 p.m., Slough Lake

Age at Disappearance: 16 years

Water* Weather* German* No Tracks* Point of Separation This case was a challenge to research based on the mistakes of reporters at the time. I was initially confused because it appeared that two men with the same first name were missing from the same first name and age. It took several days of digging to decipher that the articles talked about the same boy with di erent last names, Orndor (correct last name) and Arnott.

This story is about Walter Orndor Jr, a sixteen- year-old junior at Laurel High School in Laurel, Montana. He had a part-time job at the Laurel Dairy and was doing well in school.

On May 31,1936, Walter went with his older brother Lamar and their uncle Earl Hayden of Greenfield, Missouri, to Slough Lake southwest of Laurel. This June 3, 1936, article in the Billings Gazette had these clarifying explanations, “With two companions, Orndor started fishing in Slough Lake early Sunday morning. The youth was alone on one side of the lake, while the two others were on the other lakeshore. At their camp later in the day, Orndor ’s two companions waited in vain for him to return before conducting a search, which lasted until midnight Sunday. O icers were notified of the missing youth Monday.”

Once law enforcement was notified that Walter was missing, they called in volunteers, other law enforcement, and organized people in the lake area. The search immediately had a complication as is stated in the June 3, 1936, article in the Great Falls Tribune, “Heavy snowfall last night hindered search operations of sheri ’s o icers and

volunteers today who are combing the rugged country in the region of East Rosebud Lake for Walter Orndor Jr. 16, of Laurel who disappeared Sunday from a fishing party." Since Walter was just out for the day fishing, he did not have survival gear or the appropriate clothing to live through deep snow. The snow still didn't stop searchers. Following the snow, an SAR team located a fishing leader envelope deep in the woods near Sioux Charlie Lake. The package was in an o location, and everyone hoped it had belonged to Walter, and they concentrated on that region.

As searchers continued looking, the regular route that is taken is the victim drowned. Once ground teams don't have success finding someone, they routinely turn to blame the water, that is what happened here. There was a conversation by the sheri with the media that Walter may have drowned, and that was the story for a few days. A June 10, 1936, article in the Billings Gazette had a very unusual statement from Carbon County Undersheri Moore, "Although it is thought the youth may have drowned since no tracks or personal e ects have been found after a widespread search of the region in which he disappeared, Moore stated Tuesday that there is a possibility Orndor may have used the fishing trip as an opportunity to run away from home." When I read this, I was embarrassed for the Undersheri . He had no evidence that Walter was unhappy at home or wanted to leave; it was an unbelievable statement to make in front of family and a very highly emotional moment.

Walter's employer, Laurel Dairies, got involved in the search and posted a $ 100 reward to keep people in the woods looking for the employee.

The search and rescue teams knew that Walter was quite adept in the backcountry. Through the Boy Scouts, he had passed many tests to obtain his Eagle Scout status at 16, a great accomplishment. The idea that Walter would not handle the stress of being in the woods alone doesn't make sense since tests for Eagle Scout include survival in the wild.

The searches were intensive and lasted two weeks. The puzzling part of the search e ort was that there were no tracks found. How do you not find tracks if you know someone is in a specific area? There were articles written in 1941 about Walters's disappearance. The stories all stated that Walter had never been found, nobody had heard from him, and that he was considered deceased. It is also very odd that none of Walter's fishing supplies or Walter's bones, boots, and belt have ever been found after decades. Where does a healthy, young, German boy

travel knowing that if you follow water downhill, it will take you to a population zone? How could he have gotten so far o track that he was never located? Finally, he was fishing adjacent to Slough Lake, a very shallow water body that if you fell in, you would easily be seen.

This is another in a long line of missing cases that do not make any sense. I can't imagine the pain and anxiety the Orndor 's went through, not knowing what happened to their boy.

Murray Walkup Miller

Missing: October 24, 1936-Unk, Sapphire Mountains Age at Disappearance: 9 years

Water* Point of Separation

The Sapphire Mountains are considered some of the toughest in all of Montana. They start in an area south of Missoula and continue sixty miles south just east of the Idaho border.

On Saturday, October 24, 1936, nine-year-old Murray Miller was with his stepfather and brother in the Sapphire Mountains cutting firewood. The stepfather asked Murray and his brother to walk to a nearby creek and get a pail of water. The boys got to the stream, Murray had the bucket, filled it, and started to walk back with the brother. The boys traveled a short distance, and then Murray spilled the water and had to go back and fill it again. The second time, Murray was walking back alone and somehow got lost.

Murray's stepfather called the boy's name and searched for him until he felt that there was no hope without getting assistance. The sheri and state police were called and soon had dozens of searchers on scene. An October 26 1936, article in the Reading Eagle had this description of the search: "Nearly 500 men, including 125 soldiers from Fort Missoula, searched the mountains in the Burnt Fork region where a lad said by Sheri James Oliva to be Murray Miller, nine, was reported lost. Searchers kept a dozen bonfires burning all night in the hope of attracting the boy after about 300 men had failed in yesterday's hunt."

Searchers failed to find Murray after an endless search for four days. On Wednesday, the fifth day Murray was missing, two United States Forest Service employees were walking near a creek in the Bitterroot Forest and not far from a lookout tower. An October 29, 1936, article in the Salt Lake Tribune had this description of finding Murray: "It was only an accident that we found the child, Daigle said. I was going

up Rock Creek with Charles Lear when we noticed a boy across the creek. We called him, but he couldn't hear us. He finally waved his arm, and Lear waded the stream and brought him back." Lear and Daigle were not at Rock Creek looking for the boy; they were there on another assignment.

Murray told the rangers and his family an interesting story. He stated that the second time he brought the water back, he didn't recognize the area. He said that he kept walking and was lost. When found, Murray was extremely tired and semi-conscious.

The Billings Gazette article of October 29, 1936, had the following description of where Murray was found: "Murray, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller ˚f Stevensville Montana, had wandered 15 miles from where he left his stepfather last Saturday. The fountain range in which he was lost is considered the roughest part of the west." There was never any mention of what Murray was wearing when he disappeared or where he was found.

According to the book "Lost Person Behavior" by Robert Koester, a child, 7-9 years of age will be found at a distance of seven miles or less from the point they were last seen in 95% of the incidents. Murray was found over two times the distance, as quoted in the Koester book. He was twice the distance of an average lost person in some of the roughest country in the west, but that's not the only essential information. Remember the United States Forest Service employees who found Murray; he was near a fire tower, meaning he was near the summit of one of the tallest mountains in the area. After fifteen miles of hiking, we are led to believe that Murray Miller then decided to hike up a hill, an unbelievable feat.

Case Summary

After writing nine "Missing 411" books, I received hundreds of emails from people who had experienced or had similar experiences as I described in the books. One of those stories dealt with a man and his brother that lived in a southern state. The man stated that he had lived on the family property for a lifetime and ranched the property and walked the property thousands of times.

One afternoon, the man explained that he and his brother had gone out onto the property looking for lost cows. They had traveled on the property to an area near a large river and suddenly felt very uncomfortable. Things around them went quiet, and they suddenly didn't recognize anything around them. Remember, this was their

property, property they had known for a lifetime. They continued to walk and still not recognize a river or the area they were walking; he stated it was frightening. Eventually, the sound started to come back, and they walked through an area of heavy foliage and started to hear their dad calling their name. He stated that it appeared they had been only one hundred yards from their ranch house but couldn't hear anything. Their father said that he had fired three shots trying to help them find their way back, the boys had heard nothing. He stated that this has never happened to him since nobody on the ranch has ever experienced something similar.

As I read Murray's description of walking back towards his stepfather, a second time, he stated he didn't recognize where he was; it reminded me of the story above. It also makes me wonder how many times others in the wild have experienced a similar fate and not realized what the ranchers did at the time. The rancher stated that he feels he and his brother walked through some time warp, tunnel, or portal as they were definitely in some other place and lost for some time. I won't name him or the location the incident occurred in as an agreement not to expose the rancher's identity.

Clarence Dorey

Missing: October 16, 1938, 8 Miles Northeast of Florence

Age at Disappearance: 24 years

Weather* Point of Separation* Hunter

Fifteen miles south of Missoula lies the small town of Florence. It sits in a valley between two large mountain ranges. In early October of 1938, Clarence Dorey did reside in Florence with his pregnant wife. On October 16, Clarence had traveled with his close friend from Florence to an area eight miles northeast of the city for deer hunting. This October 27, 1938, article in the Daily Interlaker explains what happens, "Dorey became separated from Alfred Buss of Florence, his hunting companion while hunting deer the day after the season opened. Searchers followed his tracks for some distance the next day, but they were lost when the snow melted."

The story is slightly skewed; Clarence and Alfred went hunting and decided to split up to hunt. They agreed to meet back at their vehicles that afternoon. Clarence never made it to the cars. Alfred waited, yelled for his friend, and then drove back into town to get additional assistance. The o icial start of the search was October 17.

A November 7 article in the Independent Record stated that searchers were able to follow tracks down Swartz Creek to approximately one mile from the Missoula River and that he was supposedly crawling at that point. This isn't very clear since the only large river in that area is now called the Bitterroot River. If this was the river he came to, Clarence should've known that all he had to do was follow the river south to the intersection with the road they traveled. Many articles stated that Clarence went missing near the Bitterroot Valley and Hell Gate Valleys.

The formal search for Clarence included woodsmen, foresters, neighbors, relatives, 90 CCC workers, and law enforcement. There was a traditional nine- day search that never found Clarence's gear, shoes, or clothing. The hunter's dad and uncle were on the scene every day of the SAR and searched themselves extensively. The search was terminated on October 26. A group of Northern Pacific railroad employees was able to muster a $100 reward for the finding of Clarence's body.

On December 14, Clarence's wife had a baby boy at Daly Hospital in Hamilton. The article about the boy stated that Clarence was never found. Subsequent searches in the years after the disappearance never found anything.

William Hoskina

Missing: October 16, 1938, Yogo Creek, Sapphire Village

Age at Disappearance: 20 years

Point of Separation* Weather* Hunter

It's a very rare day when I am stunned by a set of coincidences in regards to a missing person. I stumbled onto the disappearances of William Hoskina and was shocked to see that he disappeared on the same day as Clarence Dorey. William vanished one hundred and forty miles northeast of the location Clarence disappeared.

William was a farm boy from Belt and had a few days o work and decided to travel with two friends sixty miles southeast to the Sapphire Village area and Yogo Creek. The trio set their camp and had an uneventful hunt on Saturday, October 15, 1938. The group did have their obstacles to Elk hunting as the snow in the area was quite deep.

On Sunday afternoon, William told his friends that he was going out

alone and would be back at dark. The friends stated that he was heavily dressed, and they were not concerned when he didn't make it back that night. When William didn't arrive the following morning, the friends did a search and then called for assistance. Friends and relatives from Belt responded in large groups to search the wilderness near Yogo Creek. An October 22, 1938, article in the Billings Gazette had these details, "Little hope was held by searchers Saturday that William Hoskins, 20-year old Belt farmer lost on a hunting trip could be found still alive." Later in the same article was this, "Because of the deep snow in the region, searchers expressed the opinion that if Hoskins perished, his body might not be found till next spring. Sheri Fred Reed was joined by volunteers from Belt in what they granted was a discouraging task."

There was a five-day intensive search for William that didn't produce any evidence of where he might be located. The SAR was terminated with William not being found. There were several subsequent searches in the years following this disappearance without William ever being located.

Readers, the vast, vast majority of searches for missing people are successful, and the people are found alive. It is the rare case where someone is never located. It is on the fringe of extreme rarity that two young men in their twenties disappear on the same day, same state, and are never found. Is this all mere coincidence? Is it also a coincidence that two hunters have vanished from the exact same location and never been found? The other hunter who disappeared in the same spot as William is Timothy Shear. Timothy disappeared on November 23, 1975: the story is later in this book.

Paul Praast

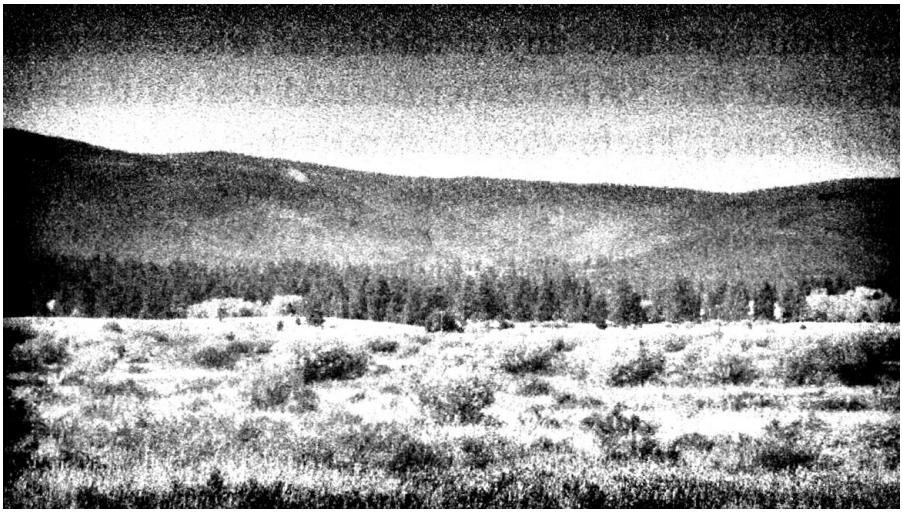
Missing: November 2,1942, near Arastra Creek headwaters, Ovando

Age at Disappearance: Unknown

Water* Disability/Illness* Previously Searched* Point of Separation* Cluster Zone

This is another case where someone who disappears in an area of another victim. Refer to the Herman Spieker disappearance on October 2, 1953. Spieker disappeared just two miles of Praast's camp. Paul Praast was a veteran of World War I. During battle, Paul was wounded seriously in his legs and did not move well. He grew up in the Ovando area, hunting his entire life. He knew the mountains like

you know your city. People stated that he would never get lost.



During the week of November 1, 1942, Harold Haynes and Paul Praast established an Elk hunting camp on the headwaters of Arastra Creek north of Ovando. Haynes had to leave for four days because of business and returned on November 6 and found the tent empty. This November 7, 1942, article in the Montana Standard had specific details, “When Haynes returned to the cabin (actually a tent) had not been occupied for two or three days. After search-ing the area for several hours, Haynes returned to his ranch home and then returned to Deer Lodge to enlist the aid of Sheri Vaulton in the search.”

The sheri knew Paul was extremely familiar with the woods in which he was missing. There was no chance in anyone’s mind that Paul was lost.

Law enforcement found that several feet of snow had fallen around the tent since Haynes had initially left. They looked through the cabin and found the vast majority of Paul’s clothing and ammunition. His rifle was gone, but it appeared that he had just taken a very short hike, not leaving for the day to hunt.

Dozens of Ovando residents went to the mountains and searched for the veteran. There were multiple searches, and nothing was ever found. A December 6, 1942, article in the Missoulian had these feelings from the local game warden, Harry Morgan, “Mr. Morgan said there is no likelihood that he was killed by a stray bullet from another hunter. There were no hunters in the country where Praast went, Mr. Morgan stated. Mr. Morgan said, His pack outfit, provisions, and many of his hunting cartridges were at the tent camp that he and other

members of his family were to use. Mr. Praast, was no doubt injured in a fall ahead of the snow-storm and died out there in the weeds. He had hunted and trapped in that country, knew every foot of it, and could not have been lost. He would have been able to take care of himself out there, providing he was not injured, evidently in a fall." Let's absorb Morgan's assumptions.

Game Warden Morgan forgot one major issue in his analysis; Paul didn't take the usual amount of ammunition with him. It appeared to many that he had just taken his rifle and one round, not normal and not enough. There were several rounds of searches lasting almost two weeks.

Nothing happened on this case until August of 1953, nearly nine months after Paul vanished. This September 3, 1943, article in the Billings Gazette has details on what was found, "The remains of a body thought to be that of Paul Praast who disappeared last November, was discovered in the mountains north of Ovando by a sheepherder, sheri Fred Valiton reported Thursday night. A sheepherder, Pete Gutornson, made the discovery in the Ogden mining country at an elevation of some 8000 feet."

A September 3 article in the Montana Standard had these new details on the find of the body, "At the time Mr. Praast disappeared, Mr. Valiton and his deputies made a trip into the snow and ice-bound mountains but were unable to find a trace of the missing man. The body found today is in the country where Mr. Praast was last known to have gone hunting.

Law enforcement did confirm the body found was Paul. They located various items on the body, verifying the identity. There were statements made that it did not appear that Paul left the tent intending to be gone for long because he left his cap and ammunition inside. In the cold and snow of the mountains, they were camping; nobody leaves the tent's warmth without taking a cap.

Paul was located in an area that had been searched by the SAR team. Members of the posse were on snowshoes and skis and spent far more time looking for Paul than was standard for the time.

The fact Paul vanished close to Herman Spieker is peculiar.

Elmer Leroy Nulk

Missing: August 15, 1946—p.m., Fort Benton

Age at Disappearance: 19 months

Distance Traveled, Last Name Probably German* Point of Separation

Montana has consistently been a state with unusual disappearances. This event happened in the north-central portion of the state, approximately twenty-five miles northeast of Great Falls. The town of Fort Benton sits on the banks of the Missouri River and claims to be the birthplace of Montana. The city has a population of approximately fifteen hundred residents and sits at an elevation of 2,621 feet.

Before this story gets deep into other facts, ask yourself how far a nineteen-month-old could travel in eighteen hours.

On August 15, 1946, nineteen-month-old Elmer Leroy Nulk somehow disappeared from his rural home in the afternoon hours. It was believed that the small child was wearing just a diaper and a pair of shoes. There was never any explanation of how the boy managed to get out of the parent's view. The family immediately started to search and call the child's name. They received no response.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Nulk contacted Choteau County Sheri Jack Bradley and requested search assistance. The sheri responded by getting townspeople to the scene. For 18 hours, community members combed the rural ranch, calling Elmer's name and walking the grounds.

Early in the morning following Elmer's disappearance, there was a significant break in the case, as is described in the August 18, 1946, article in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal: "Elmer was found seated contently among a herd of cattle about four miles from home."

How could a nineteen-month-old child get away from home so quickly that he didn't hear his parents' voices calling him? Think of the chances of the small child walking among a herd of cattle and not getting injured. Nighttime temperatures in this area get down to the low fifties, and temperatures reach as high as eighty-five degrees during the day. There was never mention of any injuries to Elmer.

The facts show no injuries and no hypothermia to the boy. The toddler traveled four miles and wasn't found for eighteen hours. No predators injured the child, even though this is grizzly bear and mountain lion territory. Is this believable?

Elmer disappeared from his home in the late afternoon and was located the following day later in the morning. It would help if you

asked yourself how fast does a 19-month-old amble on uneven ground and pasture. Survivorman Les Stroud pounded into my head that nobody walks a straight line in the wilderness. If an individual was found four miles from the PLS, there's a good chance they walked six or more miles.

Elmer didn't wander into a cow paddy and get stuck. A cow didn't step on the boy in the darkness of the evening. Search and rescue manuals state that a 19-month-old boy will be found 95% of the time at a distance of two miles or less.

What happened on the plains of Montana on the August night in 1946?

Tommy Puglsley

Missing: April 19, 1947, 20 Miles s/o Chester

Age at Disappearance: 2 years

Water* No Tracks* Point of Separation

This incident happened in north-central Montana, twenty miles south of Chester, and fifty miles south of the Canadian border on the Marais River. The river is approximately 210 miles long and is a tributary to the Missouri River and was named by Meriwether Lewis after his cousin Maria Wood.

The Pugsley family lived near the Marais River and were farmers. On April 19,1947, in the afternoon hours, Mrs. Pugsley put their young son, Tommy, down in his room for a nap and went to the next room to use the phone. Mr. Pugsley was across the river working. After a few hours, Mrs. Pugsley went to check on her son and found the room empty. She searched the house, the yard, and called her husband. The search for Tommy Pugsley was about to get chaotic.

The Pugsley quickly understood that they weren't going to find their son without assistance and called the sheri . This April 20, 1947, article in the Independent Record had details of the event, "A sheri 's posse combed the brush of Pugsley bottom on the Marais River 20 miles south of here (Chester) tonight in a search for two-year-old Tommy Pugsley, who disappeared from his ranch home this afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pugsley, the tot's parents, said Tommy disappeared while playing this afternoon and may have wandered into the thick river bottom brush. Others feared the child might have fallen

into the river." There were two di erent stories floating in the local news media; one that Tommy was playing and vanished, and one that he disappeared from his room. The boy vanishing from his room was di icult to understand and was probably being played down by reporters.

Law enforcement and neighbors all participated in the e ort to locate Tommy. This April 23, 1947, article in the Billings Gazette described the progress of the SAR, "Police Tuesday had all but given up hope for the life of 2-year-old Tommy Pugsley, who disappeared from his parent's ranch home on the Marais River near here Sunday. Dodds Keith, Liberty County Sheri , said the river had been dragged, but the child's body had not been found." It is evident from all of the articles I reviewed for this story that law enforcement focused 95% of their e orts on the river. The land around the property was relatively flat and wide open with few trees or large bushes. The search for Tommy lasted a week and was slowly geared down.

Tommy's dad, Robert, was thrust into the public spotlight again just weeks after Tommy vanished in a very odd coincidence. This May 14, 1947, article in the Billings Gazette had details of a boat carrying four men that capsized, "Two other men crossing the river to do survey work on the Marais (Tiber) dam, escaped from the boat and one of them pulled the body of Marlin from the water, he is Robert Pugsley, father of two- year-old Tommy Pugsley who drowned in the same river April 19. Pugsley lives near the site." Robert saw the boat turn over near his home, went into the river, and saved a man's life. I do find it fascinating of the lack of journalistic integrity by the reporter saying that Tommy drowned; there was no proof this happened.

I have written several stories where young boys, not girls, vanished from their room's confines and were never found. If the public didn't understand that this has happened many times, they might not want to acknowledge this. There was never one ounce of evidence that Tommy went into the Marais River.

The year 1947 had many unusual events happen across the United States. Did any of these front-page headlines have something to do with missing people?

Tommy Pugsley was never found.

Arnie Olson

Missing: August 11,1947,5:00 p.m., Sapphire Mountains, Mount

Skalkaho

Age at Disappearance: 4 years

Canine* Weather* Point of Separation

I've written about disappearances in the Sapphire Mountains in past books. These are some of the most rugged regions in North America. There are many small lakes, rivers, and streams as well. This exact location is on Mount Skalkaho o of Highway 38, approximately 20 miles east of Hamilton, Montana.

On August 11,1947, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Olson and their four children had arrived and were establishing their small wood-cutting camp in an area near the Skalkaho Divide. Arnie was playing with his two siblings. It was approximately 5 p.m. when the parents suddenly realized he had vanished with the family's Australian shepherd, Pal. The family searched until dark and then went to call the Granite County sheri . An August 13, 1947, article in the Montana Standard described the area of the search: "The camp, around which the search is concentrated, is near 7,258-foot high Skalkaho summit in some of western Montana's most rugged and heavily timbered country." I did some research on this mountain and found it to be 8,400 feet in elevation. Other articles described the area as near Mud Lake, which would make the stated elevation appropriate but nowhere near the summit.

Over five hundred searchers responded to look for Arnie. Men dragged Mud Lake looking for his body. Business people from the Bitterroot area closed their businesses and dedicated their time to looking for the boy.

There was no evidence found of Arnie as 500 searched for three nights and two days. There was a significant development late Wednesday afternoon when two smokejumpers heard the loud whine of a dog. They searched until well into darkness and were unable to find anything. The men stated that they only heard silence as they pressed through the night, hearing nothing after the initial sound. Thursday morning, the men again went into an area near the summit of Mount Hughes near Fuse Creek, where they had heard the whine. An August 15, 1947, article in the Independent - Record described what and where the searchers found Arnie: "An Australian Shepherd dog, 'Pal' remained with the boy and his barking led searchers to the body near the top of Mount Hughes, where coroner R.R. Wilson of Phillipsburg reported he died of exposure, after wandering into almost inaccessible

wilderness, where rain and hail fell virtually constantly during the search." Other articles stated that Arnie had fallen from a small ledge but was still found near the summit. The trip from the Olson camp to the location of Amie's body is rugged, steep, and an unbelievable journey for a small four-year-old boy. He would've had to travel downhill for two hundred feet and then up the incredibly steep mountainside of Mount Hughes to the 8,200-foot summit.

Many articles stated that the searchers were compromised in their e orts by a constant stream of wind and rain during each day that Amie was missing. There were no statements about what the boy was or was not wearing. Articles stated that Arnie had walked four miles and climbed over one thousand feet during his trek. A firefighter who located the body indicated that Amie was crumpled on the ground under a small cli .

Case Summary

It makes no sense that Amie would've walked up the incredibly steep side of Mount Hughes, especially since his family's camp would've been downhill behind him and in view. The other option is that he walked many more miles around the mountain base and then uphill following Fuse Creek. Either of these options are unreal.

You must also remember that 500 searchers were combing the mountain for three days calling Amie's name. He never responded to the searchers; they never heard his dog barking in those early days; why? I can guarantee searchers were within earshot of Amie during those first three days. Why Amie's dog wasn't barking and alerting for assistance is beyond my understanding.

One article stated that the sheri was traveling to the scene with the coroner to investigate the case. It did not detail why the sheri was going to the location or what was suspicious.

If you haven't read many of my Missing 411 books, I can inform you that I have chronicled many suspicious falls and deaths over the years.

George Loftus

Missing: November 6, 1947, Sapphire Mountains Age at Disappearance: 38 years

Hunter* Weather* Other Disappearance in Area* Water

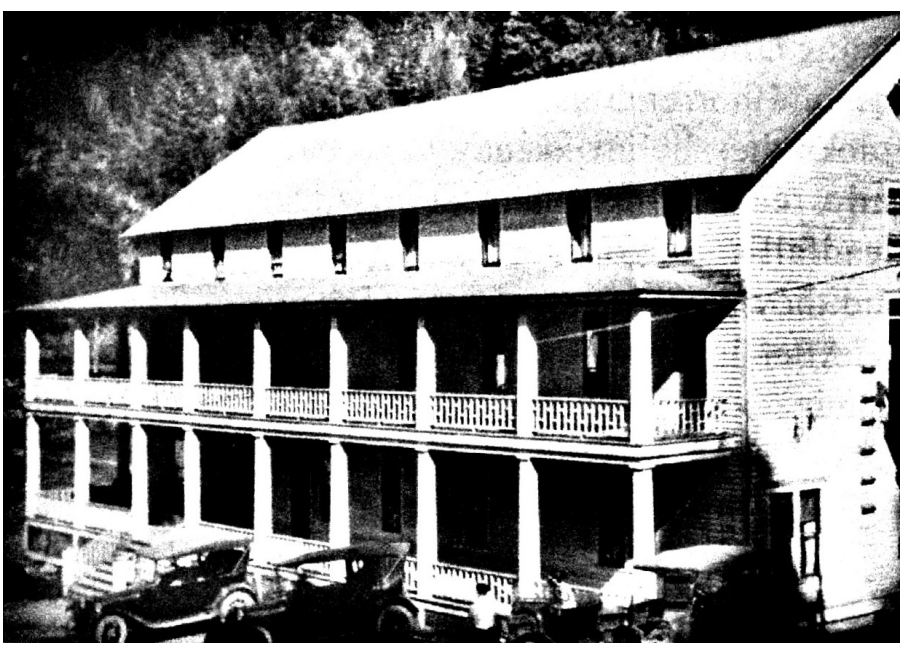
Sleeping Child Hot Springs was established in 1891 and is located in

the Sapphire Mountains approximately 15 miles southeast of Hamilton, Montana. The business is still in operation today and boasts beautiful ground, a pagoda type building, and an exquisite setting.

In 1941, George Loftus and his wife moved to Hamilton and operated the White Fountain Cafe. The business did well, and in 1943 he moved up and purchased the Sleeping Child Hot Springs in the Sapphire Mountains.

In 1947, the resort was owned by 38-year-old George Loftus. He lived on the property with his wife and four children.

George was an outdoorsman who enjoyed going into the wilderness and hunting, as he did on November 6, 1947. He left telling his family that he'd be back the following day. When George didn't return the next day, his wife contacted the forest service and asked for assistance in the search. His resort did not have a phone; communications were handled through the two-way radio with the local United States Forest Service o ice. Sheri F. O. Burrell arrived and immediately took charge of the SAR e ort. Mrs. Loftus told searchers that her husband liked to hunt the Sleeping Child Creek and Bald Top, the areas rescuers focused.



Sleeping Child Hot Springs-Circa 1940

Over 150 residents from the Bitterroot Valley arrived at the springs to look for George Loftus. Some residents came with their horses, others with backpacks; all were looking for the hunter. As the days passed, searchers were hampered in their e orts because of heavy snow falling in the area. This November 12, 1947, article in the Daily herald explained the situation, “Sheri Burrell said searchers hoped to find Loftus’s body if and when weather permits search with snow on the ground may not be till Spring. Twenty inches of snow is on the ground in the area now, he said.” The weather was so bad, planes that were requested by the United States Forest Service were grounded. Despite horrendous conditions, searchers did find tracks they believed may have been George’s five miles east of his business in an area with heavy deadfall and thick timber. The tracks didn’t go far, and they quickly lost them.

After just five days, the search for George was terminated. His father, Andrew Loftus, posted a $500 reward to anyone that could locate his son.

This area of Montana is not new to our research.

In the years after George disappeared, his dad, Andrew, fell ill and never really recovered. Two years after George vanished, Andrew Loftus died. George Loftus was never found. Some statements in various literature state that he died near Rye Creek; not true, pure conjecture.

The disappearance of George Loftus happened in close geographical proximity to the search for Arnie Olson (August 11, 1947). There were many articles that addressed Arnie’s investigation. Oddly, both of these incidents happened three months apart, and nothing has happened in the region before or since.

Judd McWilliams

Missing: September 16, 1948, Middle Bench

Age at Disappearance: 82 years

Distance Traveled

I spent several hours understanding the location of this incident and referencing several sources to understand what “Middle Bench” meant in 1948. This was a high flat area approximately five miles east of the Half Moon Ranch Recreation Retreat and eight miles west of the Bar Ranch.

In September of 1948, eighty-two-year-old Judd McWilliams spent fifty years ranching this area of Montana. He knew the Middle Bench region exceptionally well. Part of his knowledge of the area dealt with his five decades of ranching and monitoring his herd.

On September 16, Judd stopped communicating with fellow ranchers and his family. A local friend came by to check on the man and could not locate him. The friend called the Fergus County Sheri , and they came to investigate. Part of the case involved deputies contacting Judd's two sons, Allen from Portland, Oregon, and Don from San Francisco.

The sheri threw many resources into the search for Judd. Dozens of locals and deputies traversed the bench looking for the ranchers and not finding anything. Fergus County Sheri Chris Christensen called Don McWilliams and explained that five days of searching found nothing. Don asked for a private investigator (PI) referral to commit more time and effort to locate what happened to his dad.

Don McWilliams hired a PI from Lewistown who traveled to Middle Bench and spent two days searching the McWilliams property. This September 23, 1948, article in the Billings Gazette had details of the PI search, "Authorities found McWilliams gun under rocks about a quarter of a mile from his cabin. Private Detective Arley Mourer says this leads him to believe someone who knew the old man was not going to return to the cabin and had taken the gun and cached it." This is an interesting theory, especially knowing how remote this area is and how few people live in the region. It is pretty remarkable the PI found the rifle.

The search for Judd started again and lasted another three days around the rifle, finding nothing. This September 28, 1948, article in the Great Falls Tribune had more details about the search, "Plans to search by air Tuesday for missing Middle Bench Rancher, Judd McWilliams, 82 were made today by the missing man's son, Allen McWilliams. He will cover an area south of the cabin." Later in the same article is this, "An appeal was made by Allen McWilliams to all hospitals in Montana in case the missing man was picked up in bad condition and left in a hospital." The plea to hospitals did not have any institutions respond favorably. The plane flew for two days and did not see anything from the air that led to Judd being found.

The McWilliams boys went to their dad's ranch and had to take over the operation after their dad could not be found.

There was nothing new in this case until this article in the June 10, 1954, edition of the Montana Standard, “The remains of Lewistown man missing since September 1948 were found Wednesday near Grass Range. Authorities identified the bones of Judd McWilliams. Sheri Fred Bucher said he apparently became lost and wandered until he died of exhaustion.” The location where Judd was found is fifteen miles northeast of his home.

Sheri Bucher’s statement that Judd wandered this distance lost is baseless speculation. Judd spent decades on this land; the thought he was lost and at eighty-two years old walked fifteen miles across the bench is tough to believe, really hard.

Private Investigator Maurer made an interesting find of McWilliams rifle under a rock. This may have been a theft that happened after the locals knew he was reported missing. Maybe someone took and cached it until law enforcement was gone. I think this theory is more viable than someone who killed Judd. The thought of carrying a body fifteen miles across the bench under the fear of being seen by someone would prevent most from doing this.

In my books, I have made it a point to show phenomenal distances that many missing people have allegedly traveled from the place they were last seen until they were eventually found. I have tables showing the victim’s age and the distance traversed; most distances are far beyond the length people that age could have traveled. Judd was an eighty-two-year-old man. The thought he purposely walked fifteen miles to his death is not believable.

Whatever happened to Judd McWilliams is far beyond any plausible explanation today.

Catherine Keeney

Missing: June 4, 1950, 3 p.m., Warm Springs Creek, Anaconda

Age at Disappearance: 75 years

Water* Point of Separation* Canines

I need every reader to be a critical thinker. Please don’t readily believe everything you read in the newspaper or watch on network or cable television. We have been acclimated to blatantly believe certain people who become trusted in our lives. When you read or watch a news item, look for facts, not opinions. Be aware when you are subtly pushed in a specific direction, even though there is no evidence to

believe it. Three years ago, a friend gave me a book titled “Smear” by Sharyl Atkisson. She was the chief new correspondent for CBS news until her own company told her that someone had hacked her computer; it turned out it was our government, true. Sharyl left CBS and started reporting and writing on her own. “Smear” is a story about how private newsgroups you have never heard about are mainstream in manipulating what you see and believe. We are in terrifying times, don’t believe everything just because a particular channel broadcasts it.

I’ve read tens of thousands of news articles going back hundreds of years. The manipulation of the news started decades ago but has been perfected in the last several years. In the story I am about to present, the news made it appear that the victim drowned and pushed that theory incessantly without an ounce of evidence.

Catherine Keeney was seventy-five years old when she visited her daughter at 1019 East Commercial in Anaconda. On June 4, 1950, at about 3 pm, Catherine went for a walk in the creek channel two blocks north of her daughter’s home and did not come back. The daughter went into the creek area and searched, finding nothing. The Deer Lodge County Sheri was called. The sheri requested Bloodhounds from a local group. The event is described in the June 7, 1950, edition of the Montana Standard, “Bloodhounds owned by George Talbot of the Missing Persons Foundation of Hamilton followed a trail believed to be Mrs. Keeney’s to the bank of Warm Springs Creek a short distance above the dam. Sheri George Hartzell and police o icer Orrin Eccleston of the Deer Lodge County Sheri Rescue Unit, assisted by members and volunteers, dragged the dam and a 12-foot deep setting pond with grappling hooks. “Two days were spend dragging the lake and the pond finding nothing.

The canines arrived and circled the lake, not finding anything. This June 8, 1950, article in the Montana Standard had this, “The hunt had concentrated at Meyer’s Lake last two days after Bloodhounds led searchers to the banks of Warm Springs Creek, which flows into the lake. Most of the water in the 15-million gallon lake was drained Wednesday in a futile e ort to locate the missing woman.” Eighteen di erent agencies participated in the search to locate Catherin Keeney.

Please reread those previous paragraphs. The sheri stated that they were positive that the woman was not in the lake; the creek drained into the lake. The stream was searched four times, and nothing was found. This June 9,1950, edition of the Montana Standard had the results of the search e ort, “Sheri George Hartsell Thursday afternoon

announced the termination of the search for the body of Mrs. Catherine Keeney, 75 believed drowned in Warm Springs Creek. We feel that under high water and unfavorable weather conditions, we must abandon the search, the sheri said. The sheri made a statement that he believed the canines tracked her to the side of the creek and then stopped. He did not have a convincing explanation as to why the body was not located.

A new Bloodhounds team was brought to the scene on August 9, trying to find a new avenue to search; the dogs didn't find anything. The articles continued to push the theory that Mrs. Keeney was in the creek; it was not valid as it turned out. Mrs. Keeney's body was never found. If the lady were in the stream and tied up in a snag, it would've been exposed at low water, and the stench would be unmistakable.

There are too many times where I have followed these stories and the reporters writing the articles show no journalistic curiosity. It appears they soak up everything law enforcement says and then never challenge.

Where did Mrs. Keeney go? There were di erent reports that she was seen on the creek bank; others said she was on the dam's face, nothing was ever confirmed. I have documented hundreds of reports of people who vanished near the water yet were never found in the location after draining. What is it about water? Is there something that hides in the murkiness?

Catherine Keeney was never found.

Diane Cox

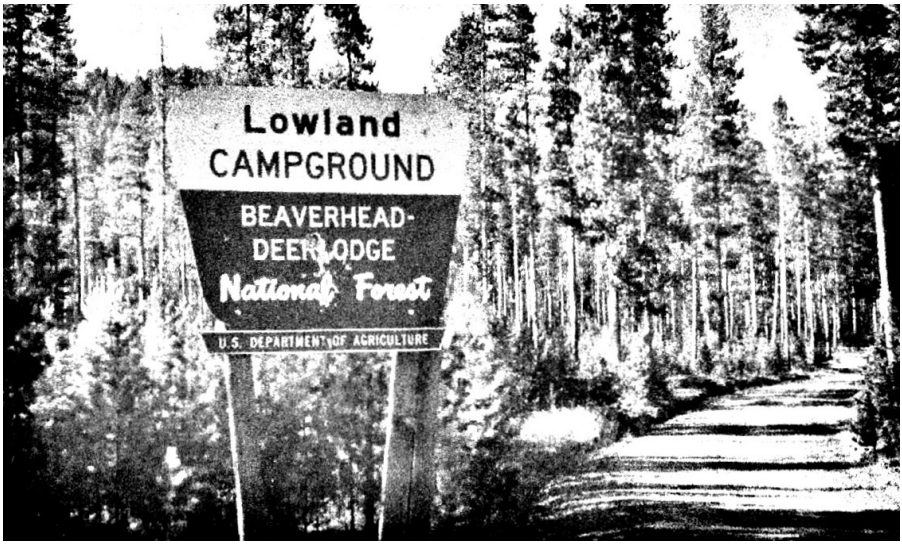
Missing: July 23, 1950, 5:00 p.m., Lowlands, Butte Age at Disappearance: 2 years

Canines* Weather* Elevation Gain* Water* Boulders

The Lowlands is an area approximately eight miles north of Butte and six miles west into the mountains. The location is popular for camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing. The region has, as its name suggests, lower-elevation mountains and valleys with slow-moving creeks. On July 23, 1950, two-year-old Diane Cox went with her parents and five brothers and sisters to the Lowlands for a day of fishing and picnicking. The Cox family met Diane's uncle's family, the Johnsons, for the day's activities.

The day of fishing was successful, and the families made a fish dinner.

At 5:00 p.m., the adults cleaned the dishes when Mrs. Cox said she saw Diane walking towards the family car with her pillow in her hand. After a few minutes, she realized she couldn't find the young girl and asked both families to start looking. It wasn't long before the adults realized Diane wasn't in the area and called the local sheri .



Lowlands Campground

The response for search services from law enforcement was tremendous. Deputies from Deer Lodge, Powell, and Je erson counties responded en masse. All available Montana Highway Patrol Units were dispatched to the Lowlands to look for Diane.

Law enforcement and the families were in fear that the girl may have fallen into the creek and drowned, but the stream was scoured, and nothing was located. The search slowly spiraled outward into areas with a low probability of the young girl wandering.

Searchers continued on-site and were in the field until the early hours of July 25, the start of the third day of searching. At approximately 3 a.m., Diane's uncle was with his dog; a canine Diane had played with almost the entire day. The dog showed interest in a craggy area, a location nobody believed Diane could reach. The July 25 edition of the Great Falls Tribune had these details: "She climbed a steep slope nearby and when later found herself alone and night coming on, took the case from her pillow, which she had carried with her, stretched it on the ground, lay on it and pulled the pillow over her. Scattered rose

petals along her path gave searchers a clue to her whereabouts. A heavy fog had rolled over the area, and the atmosphere was chilly when Diane was found this morning. Snow had fallen only a few miles away." Here is a quote from the article about the event in the July 25 edition of the Montana Standard: "Searchers had circled the vicinity in which she was eventually found but had believed that the tiny child could not possibly traverse rocky trail."

If we are to believe the articles, a two-year-old girl climbed a rocky trail nobody in the area thought she could climb. As she climbed this trail, she carried her pillow in one hand and dropped rose petals with the other. Is this plausible?

There was never any mention of Diane explaining her trip, other than a statement asking about her brothers and sisters. One article made note that searchers found bear tracks in the area where the girl was found. This is another case where there were 150 ground searchers on the scene, and a family member found the victim.

I have written about many children who are found high up in elevation, on trails rescuers thought were impossible for them to travel and at distances rescuers believed they could never manage on their own. How are these children traveling into these areas?

I traveled to this location and spent a good portion of one day walking the area. There are several very rocky peaks and crags that dot the landscape. We did find a reservoir where we filmed a segment for my YouTube channel, CanAm Missing Project. You can go to that page and watch the video I made about this incident.

Edgar Humphrey

Missing: November 13, 1950, Forest Grove Age at Disappearance: 84 years

Weather

There have been several cases of missing people that were in the woods cutting firewood. Going missing while cutting wood may be understandable if it happened in an area where the individual had never been, but not on the property you had owned for decades.

On November 13, 1950, eighty-four-year-old Edgar Murphy left his ranch home with an ax to cut firewood. A neighbor just happened to see him leave and waived. Later on the same day, the neighbor went back and couldn't locate the rancher. He searched for several hours

and then called the relatives of Edgar's. This November 18, 1950, article in the Billings Gazette had details of how this incident unfolded, "Jack Milburn manager of the N Bar Ranch near the Humphrey home reported the disappearance to sheri Chris Christensen late Wednesday afternoon. Two of Humphrey's grandsons, Don and Pete Simms, have been searching for the man since he failed to return to his ranch home Monday after saying he was going to cut wood. He left the house with an ax. For a while, his tracks were visible when he walked in a road tire tracks covered his footprints and a snow Tuesday night covered the rest of them."

Almost thirty locals and law enforcement searched the Humphrey ranch and the surrounding mountains for three solid days. This November 19, 1950, article in the Independent Record shows what searchers encountered, "Snow today forced a stop in the search for Edgar Humphrey, 84, the third man to disappear in the mountains southeast of here (Lewistown) in a little more than two years. Sheri Chris Christensen said searchers might be able to get into the mountains tomorrow, but the "snow is so deep up there now that it will be hard to find any trace of him." The next article about the event was a November 21, 1950, article in the Billings Gazette, "Ten inches of snow has fallen in the area, the sheri said, making it di icult to conduct a search except for those of a few individuals were made to find the man. The sheri said the thick underbrush in the area where the man is reported lost had been searched as thoroughly as possible, and the snow that has fallen in the last few days makes it impossible to conduct a more thorough search for him."

A full ten day search and many searches the following spring never found Humphrey. It's hard to imagine a man that spent decades on his property would get lost. It also doesn't make sense that he would walk a long distance to cut firewood, as he would have to carry it back. If he had been anywhere within a mile of his ranch house, his body the following spring would be found easily from the rank odor a decomposing body emits.

One of the articles noted other men are missing in the same area in the previous years. I made a comprehensive search of all related cases, and there was only one other that matched, Judd McWilliams, who you read about earlier in the book. It is very odd that two very old ranchers vanished from their property, one being found and the other never located. Noting that Judd was found an unbelievable fifteen miles from home makes you wonder if Edgar su ered the same fate.

Jerry Monkman

Missing: April, 25, 1953, 5 p.m., Choteau

Age at Disappearance: 11 years

Canines* Distance Traveled* Disability/Injury* Point of Separation

In the thousands of missing person reports I've reviewed, the disappearance of Jerry Monkman classifies as one of the top five I've ever read for the sheer distance a child has traveled. Many parts of this story fit the profile points I've included in the study, but the distance the boy traveled boggles the mind.

Jerry was one of a group of Boy Scouts that went to the Rocky Mountains on a weekend getaway. The group was twenty-five miles west of Choteau, Montana, and on the Teton Canyon's edge on April 25, 1953.1 think it's important to understand the physical frame that Jerry possessed, as is described in this April 27, 1953, article in the Herald Journal: "A frail 11- year old Boy Scout became lost from fellow hikers in the rugged Teton Mountains last night and lawmen and volunteers using planes and a Bloodhound engaged in a dramatic search today." The keyword in the article: "frail." The Scouts and the three adult leaders searched through the night and were unable to find him.

The entire city of Choteau (Pronounced "Show- Toe"), all sixteen hundred residents, came to the search site and participated in finding Jerry. A Bloodhound from Hamilton, Montana, was flown to the scene and did track an alleged scent, as is described by Teton County Undersheri Walt Magee in this April 27, 1953, article in the Spokesman-Review: "Magee said the Bloodhound had led the searchers 12 miles north and east from the Boy Scout campsite into a swampy area." The article didn't clarify what happened after the dog reached the swamp; I can only imagine that the area wasn't scoured. This area was reached just twelve hours after Jerry vanished, a phenomenal distance for anyone to travel in that period of time. The same article that explained what the Bloodhounds found also stated that it had rained the day the dogs were in the field, which inhibited their ability to track any scent.

Jerry had had asthma for several years, and law enforcement was concerned about finding the boy as soon as possible. Airplanes continued to circle the Boy Scout camp skies, and searchers were finding nothing of value. At approximately 8 a.m. on April 27, an astonishing find was made and is explained in the April 28, 1953, Spokane Daily Chronicle: "As most of Choteau's 1600 residents joined

in a search, he was found 38 hours later—not by the search parties but by 8-year old David J. Waldner of the Rockport Hutterite colony. Riding horseback, David came upon Jerry as he stumbled across a field near the colony. At that point, he had trudged nearly 30 miles north and west from the Boy Scout Camp and was roughly the same distance from Choteau." Jerry was described as in good shape and su ered only from a minor shock and exposure case.

When the boy was asked about his thirty-eight- hour journey, he stated that he slept under trees and wasn't bothered by wild animals.

Case Summary

I think it's important to review this case closely. The Bloodhound tracked a scent twelve miles north and east from the Boy Scout camp and lost it in a swamp. Readers of my past books know that many missing children are found in wetlands. Where the Bloodhound tracked, the scent is very suspicious to me. When Jerry was interviewed, he never made any statement about a swamp, so, what was the Bloodhound doing there?

The Bloodhound tracked north and east, and Jerry went north and west and was eventually found thirty miles away thirty-eight hours after he disappeared. Jerry stated that he slept under trees, indicating that he did sleep for part of this journey. If Jerry slept for eight hours, that means he was on his feet for thirty hours and negotiated thirty miles in thirty hours. I seriously doubt the boy was moving nonstop for that entire thirty-hour time span. Jerry was negotiating his way over very rough mountains, not a flat, level plane. In Robert Koester's book, Lost Person Behavior, he states that a child ten to twelve years old will be found 95 percent of the time within 5.6 miles or less in a mountain area.

Searchers and Boy Scout leaders described Jerry as "frail." It was stated that Jerry had asthma, a breathing disorder that could have a significant impact on someone taking a long-distance hike at altitude. I hike regularly at eight thousand to ten thousand feet and run four to five miles daily. I seriously doubt I could cover thirty trail miles in thirty hours in the Mountains. One more fact of concern: Jerry wasn't on a trail; he was bushwhacking across the country, an even more ardu-ous journey. I need to remind you what Survivorman says about people being found miles from the point last seen. Nobody walks a straight line in the woods; if they are found ten miles away, they probably walked 50%-100% further, meaning, Did Jerry hike 60 miles?

Do you believe Jerry made that journey unassisted?

Patty Ann Mclean

Missing: July 4, 1953, 2:30p.m., 15 miles NE, Butte Age at Disappearance: 3 years

Distance Traveled* Boulders* Mini Cluster

This is the second case from this same general area in the last three years; Dianne Cox was the first.

Mr. and Mrs. William Mclean traveled from their home in Butte 15 miles northeast to a campground in the Deer Lodge National Forest for a fourth of July picnic. The McLean's had two boys and three girls in their family. It was approximately 2:30 p.m. on the fourth, and the family was playing ball when they realized that little Patty Ann had wandered o . The four other children and the parents all participated in yelling and wandering the picnic grounds looking for the small girl. It wasn't long into the search that the parents enlisted the U.S. Forest Service, who called the local sheri 's department. Within hours there were hundreds of people searching for Patty Ann.

The first night of the search failed to find Patty Ann, and searchers continued to search the heavily wooded and swampy region for the toddler. The local sheri had brought in Bloodhounds, but they failed to find the girl that first night of searching.

At approximately noon on July 5, searchers focused on the area near the picnic site while a few others had wandered deep into the forest into a rocky cli area. Three searchers were climbing up a rock ledge in an unbelievable stroke of luck and found the girl on a rock halfway up a cli . Patty Ann was missing one shoe but was in good condition, considering it had gotten down to 43 degrees the night before.

In another unbelievable aspect of this case, Patty Ann was found over eight miles from the location where she disappeared. In the book "Lost Person Behavior", by Robert Koester, he states that a missing three-year-old will be found in less than 5.6 miles from the point last seen in 95% of the searches. Patty Ann was found 2.4 miles outside the 5.6 miles and up a "Sheer rock cli " (Long Beach Independent, 7/6/53).

Patty was interviewed after she had gone to the hospital. She stated that she slept under a log, indicating that she wasn't on the cli at night. She also said that she had seen "little cows" (The Interlaker, Kalispell, 7/6/53).

Case Summary

This is another case where a small girl disappears in the forest from a family event where there are other small children present. It is hard to believe that a three-year-old can walk eight miles in twenty-three hours and climb a sheer rock cli . What did Patty Ann mean when she stated that she had seen “little cows?”

Two young missing girls in a forested setting both vanish in July, and both are found far outside standard search protocols. During the analysis of these cases, I also look at the families of the victims. Tn these events, one family had five children, and one had six. I do think it is incredibly odd that we have two missing girls within three years of each other and then nothing for decades before and never anything after. Is this a mere coincidence?

Herman Spieker

Missing: October 2, 1953, ten miles west of Lincoln Age at Disappearance: 86 years

German* Canines* Water

I’ve spent considerable time in the area of Lincoln, Montana, and the location of this disappearance. The first time I ever visited this quaint city, I walked into a restaurant and saw a sweatshirt with Ted Kaczynski’s photo on it. I sat down to have lunch and realized this establishment had a drink named after the Unabomber. It took me a while to remember that Ted Kaczynski had a cabin on Lincoln’s outskirts, which was the location he was taken into custody. In October of 1953, Herman Spieker was an eighty-six-year-old rancher living at the west end of Patterson Prairie Road ten miles west of Lincoln. His ranch sat near the base of Black Mountain and up against some of the oldest forests in Montana.

On October 1, 1953, a neighbor had stopped by Herman’s ranch to check on him and say hello. He reported that the German was in excellent health and was very happy tending to his cattle. It was reported that Spieker had a crippled cow and that he left his home on October 2 to check on the animal. Neil Spieker stopped by his father’s ranch late on October 2 and could not locate him. A November 3, 1953 article in the Montana Standard had these details about Herman’s disappearance, “It was Mr. Spieker’s habit to spend the summer at the cabin to keep watch on a herd of cattle grazing in the area. Members of the family made frequent visits to the cabin. There

was no sign of disorder in the cabin at the time the disappearance was first noted. It appeared that the aged man had prepared and eaten his breakfast and had put some water on the stove to boil to clean the dishes. Only the apparel he would wear ordinarily is missing from his premises." The family searched the ranch and then called the sheri when they couldn't locate Herman.

The Powell County sheri led the e ort to locate the rancher. In the same article noted above were these details about the search, "An almost continuous search since Mr. Spieker's disappearance has been without result, Sheri Ellsworth stated. At one time, nearly 100 searchers, more than 25 mounted on horseback, searched the rugged area in which the aged man's cabin is located. A Helicopter from Missoula spent considerable time in an aerial search, the sheri reported, and the Deer Lodge County Rescue Unit made an underwater search of the Blackfoot River." Herman's cabin was on the same Blackfoot River. An October 7 article in the Montana Standard stated that Bloodhounds were brought to the area Herman was last seen. The dogs supposedly picked up his scent intermittently but never were able to locate the rancher.

The search continued o and on for almost two months. The family never gave up on the attempt to find the 86-year-old owner of the large ranch. A November 28, 1953, edition of The Missoulian had these details, "Blackfeet Valley residents remain in doubt as to what happened to Herman Spieker, octogenarian rancher missing since early fall from his home near Lincoln. No trace was found of Spieker."

The Spieker disappearance is in a cluster of three missing men. This case occurred at a ranch that backs up to some extremely remote wilderness. Various stories stated that Herman left to check on a lost or crippled cow; both versions exist. I can tell you for a fact that I have documented many missing people that went to look for missing cows when they vanished.

Is there something that took the animal, and when the human goes out to check, they are then taken? Herman Spieker was a spry eighty-six-year-old man, but he was eighty-six. How far could a man the age of Herman walk? The SAR included helicopter time from Missoula; why wasn't he located?

Donald Raymond Fain

Missing: October 3, 1953, Norris Age at Disappearance: 13 years Canines* Point of Separation* Hunter I think it's an interesting

coincidence that just one day after Herman Spieker disappears and is never found in Lincoln, a thirteen-year-old boy vanishes one hundred miles south. Both males, both disappeared in remote regions of the state. Coincidence?

I know that it's hard for many people living in a big city that parents would allow a thirteen-year-old boy to walk o into the woods with a rifle to go hunting alone. The rural life in Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, is quite di erent from many residents in the United States understand. A boy growing up on a ranch is dealt with much more responsibility and must quickly realize that there are many dangers on his ranch that are di erent from city life. A rifle in Montana is seen as a tool as a hammer is a tool for a New York City resident. The need to harvest a deer or elk is seen as part of their routine life. Allowing a teenager to go out into the woods alone with a rifle is not given a second thought by the vast majority of farmers and ranchers families.

October is hunting season, and on October 3,1953, Don Fain grabbed his rifle and walked out the door of his family's ranch house in search of the family meal. This October 7, 1953, article in the Montana Standard laid the groundwork for what happened, "Young Fain is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fain who operates a ranch about five miles southwest of Norris. When last seen, the Fain boy was carrying a rifle, and it was presumed he went hunting. When he failed to return home Saturday, members of the family and neighbors instituted a search. Later, Madison County o icers joined the hunt." It was reported that Don was last seen wearing an overall jacket, grayish-blue cap, and blue shirt. He is approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall, and weighs 110 pounds.

Norris's quick facts are that the surrounding and the region is known for ranching and farming. The topography is predominantly low rolling hills without significant ground cover. The Tobacco Root Mountains make a stunning backdrop to the west of the city. The area that Don walked towards had a few creeks with an open space to hunt for miles.

The Norris's and local ranchers looked for Don throughout that first night and then called the Madison County Sheri for assistance. The sheri didn't wait long until he contacted the Ravalli County sheri and a deputy with a specially trained dog for tracking. This October 8, 1953, article in the Montana Standard had additional search information, "Madison County authorities leading a search party back into Norris as night fell Wednesday reported their dogged hunt was fruitless. A Bloodhound, brought by George Talbot from Corvallis,

failed to stir up a scent of the missing boy, and that phase of the search has been concluded, the o icers said." Ravalli's deputy did respond and spent two days on the ranch searching and did not find a scent to track.

There was a massive seven-day SAR for Don Fain where searchers found nothing. Friends and family came back to the region multiple times over the following months looking for Don's body and could not locate anything.

It's a real mystery what happened to Don Fain; he was never found.

Ida May Curtis

Missing: July 4, 1955, Kootenai National Forest, Libby

Age at Disappearance: 2 years

Area Previously Searched* Water* Weather

Mortimer Curtis was a logger employed in Leigh Creek Camp in the Kootenai National Forest southwest of Libby. Mortimer worked in the camp with his dad, Curtis, in an environment of all-male loggers. The Fourth of July weekend brought families to the camp to spend time with their husbands and fathers. The families placed tents on the perimeter of the make-shift city. While the adults caught up on lost time, the children played with themselves in the outdoor setting. It was a way for the logging company to keep their men in camp yet allow for social time for the families.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on July 4, 1955, Ida May Curtis and her nine-year-old brother Cecil had walked o the campgrounds. Cecil told the family that Ida May had seen something in the forest a short distance from the clearing they were standing. The kids returned to the camp and played around the tent when they claim that a bear entered the tent and then left, hopping on three legs carrying Ida May. They stated that the bear ran into the woods with the little girl. Mortimer's father confirmed that he thought he saw a bear just about that time carrying something running through a creek. He stated that he tried to chase the creature but could not keep up.

The children told Ida May's mother what they observed, and she looked in the tent. She couldn't find Ida May. She ran into the woods and didn't see anything. Ida's mom ran to her husband, and he got other loggers who scoured the area. After the locals performed an intensive search, they contacted law enforcement. The local sheri

obtained assistance from the United States Forest Service and then put out the call on media for volunteers. Almost 250 searchers from as far away as Spokane responded to the woods to search for the little girl.

Ida's mom was interviewed and confirmed that there was no way that her daughter would leave the immediate area of the other children unless she were taken.

Just after Ida May disappeared, fierce rain and then snowstorm hit the region. The storm greatly hindered search e orts because tracks and scent had been washed away.

On July 5, at approximately 4:30 p.m., searchers found Ida May. The girl was located nearly 300 yards from where she initially disappeared. This area had been searched dozens of times, and Ida was not found during those e orts.

Ida May did show her parents where she was held by a mother bear (her words). Ida took the searchers a crude shelter on the opposite side of a creek from which she was staying. The shelter was made of cedar slashings. A July 5, 1955,. article in the Spokane Daily Chronicle stated, "The girl was found, huddled in a crude shelter of cedar slashings, which were too heavy for her to lift."

The indication from this is that Ida May could not have made the shelter. If they were too heavy for Ida May to lift then, how does a bear lift them?

Doctors examined Ida May and found her in perfect condition, with no scratches, no bite marks, and no e ects from exposure to the elements.

Case Summary

This is a fascinating abduction to study because there are many more facets to this story that we don't know. I have yet to find a credible tale where a child is held captive by a bear overnight, comforted, and then released unharmed the next morning. Believing what other children state they saw when Ida was abducted is one thing; maybe they were stretching the truth, we don't know. But the statement of Mortimer's dad stating that he saw a three-legged animal running and carrying something when Ida disappeared has to be believed. The questions that come to my mind are how did Ida live through a snowy night without getting cold and su ering from exposure? How did she cross the creek without getting soaked? How can a bear grab a child and not inflict teeth or claw marks? Why would Ida lie about what happened when other children and her grandfather confirm the facts

surrounding the event?

One of the more fascinating aspects of this case is the sheri 's statements after the girl was found. He made several statements to the media claiming a bear never took Ida May; she just wandered o . When the media representative said that this isn't what the family is saying, Lincoln County Sheri Ray Frost stated, "I don't see why they keep saying that." Later in the conversation, the sheri states, "I think I'll go out and talk with the parents again." Why would the sheri make a special trip to speak to parents who had just gone through a traumatic ordeal unless he wanted to stop the story?

It's also very odd that the camp the loggers occupied at Leigh Creek had been occupied for many months, and an abduction happens on the weekend the families arrive. It seems strange that the weekend children arrive at the camp, a supposed bear walks into a tent, picks up a child, and hops away on three feet. The bear then supposedly outruns a man trying to catch them; it also seems impossible. When bears are confronted, they usually get angry and stand their ground, not flee, especially while holding something as large as a two-year-old girl. It also seems almost impossible for a bear to grab a child in its arm and run on three feet without injuring or dropping the child while running full speed. Remember, the bear must cross a creek to get to the location they supposedly spent the night.

The other part of this story that seems impossible is that the bear grabs a child, takes her to its den, and comforts the girl through the night. Maybe the bear takes the child to its lair to eat her that night but not to comfort.

I believe something took Ida May and comforted her threw the night; the real question is, what grabbed her?

The final element to this story that needs to be discussed is the den made of cedar slashings. There are two other cases where young boys disappeared, and a crude shelter was found near the boy's location (Johnson-Yellowstone National Park and Engbretson- Crater Lake National Park). Johnson and Engbretson were never found, and whatever made the shelter was never identified.

This is another case where I went to the scene and made a YouTube video of the incident. You can watch the video on the CanAm Missing Project YouTube page. The comments on this video were quite revealing. I don't think there was one person that believed that a bear had taken Ida May. When I was preparing for the video, I located

another article stating that Ida May had talked about the bear's teats and how they had smashed her face while she was grabbed. Many people said it didn't make any sense that a bear would have big teats. One item I learned by going to the site forests thickness and the rugged nature of the mountains.

One last item that the reporters writing the stories overlooked was that Ida May was found in such proximity to the camp. If Ida May had always been just 300 feet from camp, she would've heard the hundreds of individuals calling her name and saw them searching the forest floor. Where was she during those early e orts to locate her?

Mary Gay Bent

Missing: July 13,1958,3p.m., Sage Creek Campground Age at Disappearance: 5 years Blonde Hair

Disability* Cluster Zone* Weather* Canines

The Bent family had driven to the Sage Creek Campground forty miles south of Billings to cele-brate the fifth birthday of Mary Gay. There were other friends and family that came to the picnic to celebrate. Mary had twin brothers John and Arthur (7 years) and a one-year-old brother named Fred. Mary would've had the appearance of someone with a disability as her left arm and shoulder were heavily bandaged because she had just completed an extensive bone marrow transfer to accelerate growth in her arm.

At approximately 3 p.m. on the picnic day, Mary asked her mom if she could walk the 20 feet to the restroom; her mom said that was fine. Mary didn't come back. The family and friends immediately started to call for the girl and ran throughout the area, calling her name; there was no trace of her. The family began searching less than five minutes after she went to the bathroom and knew she couldn't have gone very far.

The Bents called the U.S. Forest Service and the local sheri . The call for assistance also brought the state police and Bloodhounds from the Montana State Prison. Forty o icers spent the entire first night searching for the girl without finding any evidence of her or hearing her response to her name. Rescuers were searching in almost impossible conditions because it was raining very hard. The area that Mary disappeared is in a small valley with Sage Creek flow-ing down the center. Sage Creek does have trout, and the surrounding mountains are large and tall.

Bloodhounds were not successful in finding Mary Gay, but several di erent groups of searchers were in the field. On July 14, one searcher was alone 1000' up the mountain from the campsite and thought he saw a clump lying on the ground below a large Pine tree. As the searcher approached the tree, he saw a large coat with its hood pulled up over the body's head. It was 2 p.m. when the searcher pulled back the hood and found Mary Gay Bent asleep two miles from the campsite and a remarkable 1000' higher in elevation, at 7000'. The girl was amongst large trees and thick vegetation. Her arm with the bandage was not injured.

Mary didn't explain much about her ordeal other than to say that she had gone back and forth from where she was found and the campsite where she disappeared, almost implying that she knew where the camp was located but didn't return. She was asked how she stayed dry in the driving rainstorm; the girl stated that she slept under a log.

Case Summary

It's hard to understand how anyone can get lost walking twenty feet to a restroom, especially when they know their parents are within screaming distance. It is equally hard to decipher what the girl meant when she stated that she had been going back and forth throughout the night. How could she have gone back and forth throughout the night without getting soaked from the heavy rain? How could she have walked about without having her scent picked up by canines?

Lawrence Eugene Prange

Missing: August 14, 1958, Mission Mountains, Seeley Lake

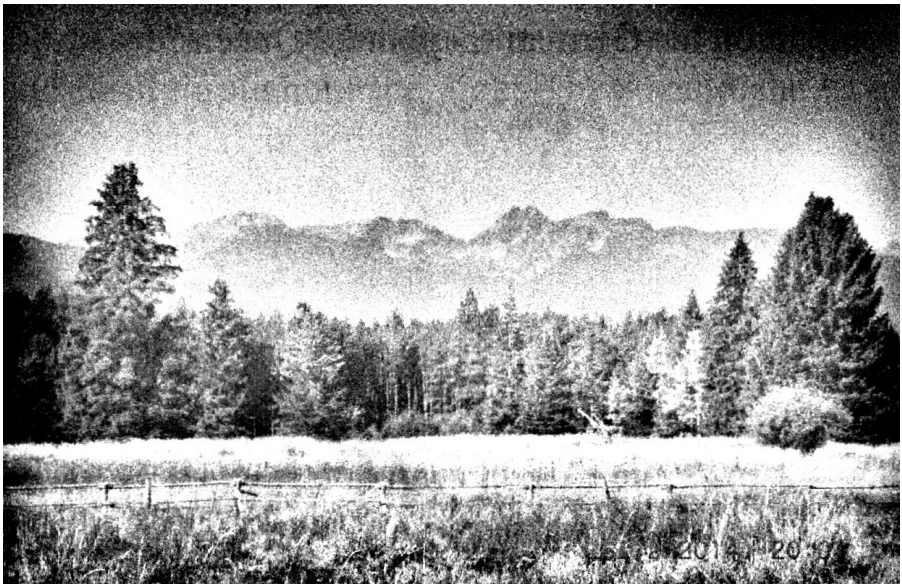
Age at Disappearance: 20 years

Canine* Water* Hunter* Cluster Zone One of the oldest rules in visiting the great outdoors is never hiking alone; this is the rule that Lawrence Prange broke when he traveled to the Mission Mountains west of Seeley Lake on August 10, 1958.

Lawrence Eugene Prange was from Lake Villa, Illinois, and was a young man that always enjoyed the outdoors. Prange's interest in the outdoors led him to study to be a wildlife technician at the University of Montana at Missoula. Prange found an old wooden cabin behind the university that he made his home. Prange found a fellow student, Susan Heck, as a girlfriend. Lawrence enjoyed all parts of the wilderness, and that included hunting. The trip to the Seeley Lake region was intended to be a hunt for Mountain Goats. Lawrence had

made a trip to this region before, and he would again take as his companion his German shepherd, “Queen.”

Lawrence Prange drove from Missoula to the trail- head just southeast of Lindbergh Lake. He parked his car, loaded his backpack with supplies, entered the wilderness carrying two rifles, and his German Shepherd Queen took her pack with supplies. Prange was due out of the Mission Range on August 14, and he had agreed to contact his parents and girlfriend when he returned; he never made those calls. When relatives hadn’t heard from the student, the alarm was sounded, and Mr. and Mrs. Prange headed for Montana, and Sue Heck (Girlfriend) headed for the search center.



Lawrence Prange, Missing in the Mission Mountains

Searchers utilized helicopters, men on horseback, specialty trackers, and even brought in canines in the hopes of luring out Queen. After more than a month of searching, the SAR teams had found nothing of Prange or his dog. On September 20, an SAR team riding the range saw Queen running wildly through the brush.

She was seen on the northwest side of Lindbergh Lake in some of the roughest areas in this por-tion of the state. The area around Lindbergh is very lush with thick vegetation. There is ample water in the area for all wildlife. SAR teams could not get near Queen because she was too jumpy and nervous. The location that crews spotted Queen was more than three miles from the primary search location of Rocky Heights.

The SAR team returned to the base and asked Prange's girlfriend if she would accompany them to retrieve Queen; she did. Sue Heck was the

only person that could come close to approaching Queen. The dog was eventually calmed down and followed the teams back to base camp.

After a day of calming the dog and feeding her, searchers took Queen to the top of one of the primary peaks that searchers believed Prange had hunted. Queen wanted nothing to do with even being on the mountain and wanted to get out of the area. Searchers carefully examined the dog and did not find any wounds indicating that she may have been fighting with an animal. Prange's parents and girlfriend were quite puzzled how Queen's backpack could've been removed since searchers never found any of Prange's equipment. Teams theorized that whatever happened to Prange must've occurred while he had his gear on his back because they never found his campsite.

Case Summary

There is something about the general Seeley Lake Region that doesn't bode well for hikers and hunters traveling alone.

I've tracked dozens of cases where hikers and hunters have died, and searchers find the body, and the canine companion is sitting next to the corpse and refuses to leave. This is the only case I've ever seen where the canine was running loose in the wild, and the hunter is never found. It would almost seem as if Queen was deathly afraid of the circumstances surrounding Prange's disappearance and wanted nothing to do with whatever may have happened.

Prange may have been well-armed, but as searchers, his girlfriend, and parents stated, both of his rifles were kept in his backpack. If the rifles were not readily available, Prange could've been jumped by something and never had a chance to defend himself.

The area three miles west of where Queen was located is the timberline region where you'd expect a goat or sheep hunter to establish camp. The site is dotted with dozens of small lakes that make this a gorgeous setting but a challenging area to search.

Almost in the middle of this beauty is Lucifer Lake, not a lake with a name I'd like to camp.

There were several extensive searches in the summers of 1959 and 1960, where ground teams scoured the region looking for Lawrence. The mountain tops they were searching did not have trees or bushes, just a barren high-altitude landscape.

On September 24, the search for Prange was over. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Prange went to their son's cabin in the Pattee Canyon near his school and collected his belongings. Sue Heck returned to the university and resumed her studies to become a wildlife technician, and the Pranges went back to Illinois without ever knowing what happened to their son. Queen went back to Illinois with the Pranges; oh, if only that dog could talk.

There were no updates on this case for thirty-two years; this September 20, 1991, article in the Great Falls Tribune had a significant update, "Although Marian Prange (mother) and others continued to search sporadically for decades, no hard evidence in the Prange disappearance until the fall of 1990, when Bill Fisher, a forester for the Bureau of Indian A airs, came across a rusted backpack frame and grimy pair of World War Il-issue binoculars. Dave Ball, a Missoula County sheri 's deputy in charge of the county's search and rescue team, got the items in March of 1991 and speculated they belonged to Prange, began retracing the mystery. On two days in June, Ball and others found numerous camping items in the vicinity of the backpack discovery, including a sleeping bag zipper and the decayed remains of a blanket Marian Prange had given to her son." Marian Prange flew back to Missoula and immediately identified the blanket as the one she gave her son, Gene. The location where the items were found was eight miles from the trailhead and Gene's car. In the same article quoted above, Marian stated, "Yes, I will be back there, she said, stifling a tear. It's like coming back to your birthplace."

One fascinating fact that searchers focused on in later years was the region of the Jocko River. This April 10, 1991, article in the Missoulian explains how the SAR coordinator is searching the Jocko Valley, "Ball hopes a new search can bring her some peace of mind. Ball will take Missoula County's search and rescue into the Missions from the Jocko Valley side, focusing on the country east of the two St. Mary's peaks and south of Goat Mountain, which was searched extensively in 1958." I think it is a strange coincidence that the Jocko Valley and River are mentioned in 1991 as part of the search, and these are the regions where Viola Jauran disappeared and was never found. Our world is a vast place. To have two unusual cases where both people are never found seems very strange.

One of the hardest things in life to accept is the unknown and the possible death of a child. All parents seem to hold out hope they are still alive, even under the most dreadful of circumstances. Marian stated in the article that it wasn't until 1989 that she came to the

point of believing Gene had died. The search and rescue coordinator stated that he didn't think a bear killed Gene but also said that he didn't know what may have taken his life. Prange's rifles and knife have never been found.

I have driven past this location dozens of times in the last few years. The fact that none of Lawrence's firearms and knife has been found may seem rational to some, not me. His rifles are still sitting on the mountainside, somewhere, rusting, but still there. The thousands of hunters that have walked those specific mountains in the last sixty years and not have found anything related to Lawrence, how is this possible?

I can't imagine the anxiety and loss that Mr. and Mrs. Prange su ered in their remaining years without knowing what happened to their son. This is another in a long line of cases that haunts me.

Sam Adams

Missing: October 27,1958-Unk, Chamberlain Mountains, Southwest of Ovando

Age at Disappearance: 39 years

Point of Separation* Hunter* Unknown Cause of Death

The location of this incident is a series of mountains just southwest of Ovando, Montana. This is a gorgeous location within a 15-minute drive of the city.

Sam Adams was hunting in an area of the Chamberlain Mountains southwest of Ovando and approximately twenty miles southeast of Seeley Lake. Adams was hunting with two friends Ed Hodges (40 years) and Calvin Trusty (52 years), when they somehow got separated. On October 27,1958, Adams was reported as missing. The area is extremely rugged with steep peaks and deep valleys. Searchers interviewed Sam's wife, and she confirmed that he was armed with a rifle and pistol, had warm clothing, matches, and was carrying food.

Multiple private hunting parties called o their vacations to look for Sam. The Montana National Guard, Powell County Sheri , and Montana Fish and Games all worked together in a grid pattern to find a location where Sam may have established a camp. After seventeen days of intensive search e orts, Sam was not located. The weather continued to deteriorate, and all search e orts were stopped for safety issues.

Sam was hunting with dedicated friends, and they didn't give up their e orts to find their partner. The winter months haunted Ed and Calvin, and they decided to do everything possible to locate their friend. They took every possible weekend and traveled to the Chamberlain Mountains to search the mountains for Sam Adams. On July 12, the e orts of Ed and Calvin paid dividends. A July 14, 1959, article in the Deseret News had the following: "The party found Adams's rifle, smashed in three parts, his wallet, shoes, and tattered bits of clothing. They also found bear signs and remnants of half-digested clothing, human bones, and hair. The shoes were scarred with teeth marks. Evidence of the battle was strewn in a 50-foot circle." The theory that was forwarded by law enforcement was that Sam wounded a bear. He used all but two bullets in the attempt to kill the creature and only injured it. In the same Deseret News article: "He apparently crawled alongside a log and tried to light a fire to get warm. He removed the shoelaces, probably to use as tourniquets. Then it appears he used his last two rounds to summon aid. The bear then reappeared, and he used his gun as a club." Authorities then claim that the bear devoured Sam on-site or took part of the body to its den. How authorities could make all of these assumptions is genuinely remarkable.

I've spoken to several outdoorsmen about this story, and there are many that question the logic behind the theory of what happened. How could anyone know the sequence of when Sam fired his rounds? Articles state that a special team was sent to investigate the scene as it ba led those that initially found the carnage. All of the articles claim that the bear was enraged and that there was a wild battle.

If the bear was enraged and if there were an epic battle, it would be very doubtful that Sam had the opportunity to get three huge whacks at the bear with his rifle and then subsequently break it into three pieces. If he had time to whack the bear, why not shoot the bear? Many could understand getting one good whack, but then you'd probably be taken down by the bear and be in a hand-to-hand struggle if that was the only weapon you had. A November 1, 1958, article in the Montana Standard ended with the following paragraph: "Trusty said Adams was warmly dressed, carried food and was armed with a pistol and rifle." Calvin was Sam's hunting partner and would've known what Sam was carrying. The theory propagated by law enforcement specifically excluded the fact that Sam was carrying a pistol, a pistol that was left out of their explanation and a gun that was never found after extensive searches at the scene. Authorities tried to explain away the fact that the vast majority of Sam was never located by claiming that a bear carried him to its den.

The last item that authorities tried to explain was why Sam's shoelaces were removed from his boots. The explanation forwarded was that Sam used them as tourniquets. Again, deputies are grasping at a logical explanation even though they have no rationale to put forward that explanation. They would have no way of knowing if Sam was seriously injured before he was fatally wounded or if the bear took his life when he was attacked at his final location.

Case Summary

Readers must remember that Sam's friends had been searching for dozens of weekends and had been unable to locate him. It was almost seven months after he vanished that this location was found, a heavily wooded area fifteen miles southwest of Ovando. One article did state searchers felt there were two di erent scenes, two hundred yards apart. Two of the articles stated that they found Sam's belt and socks, an unusual set of items to mention. The articles didn't say "sock," they said "socks," indicating they found two. If they found Sam's belt and socks, how were both of them removed from his body without being devoured by a bear?

Authorities claim that Sam used his last two rifle rounds to summon assistance. Why wouldn't Sam have used his pistol to defend himself from the supposed bear? Why didn't searchers find Sam's gun? Why would a hunter that had presumably been attacked by a bear, a bear that could come back for a final kill, use his last two rounds to shoot into the air?

Other hunters and I have tried to understand how you can break a rifle into three di erent pieces; it Wouldn't be an easy task under any conditions, let alone a fight with a bear. The remnants of what was found of Sam were described as "scant remains." If this is all they found of Sam, you wouldn't expect to see his belt, hat, shoes, billfold, socks, and knife. Oh yes, the knife, what about Sam utilizing the knife as a weapon in a struggle for life?

The location where Sam was eventually found was only a mile and a half from the point where the main search was centered in November. This seems like a very short distance to maintain a search for seven months.

The death of Sam Adams reminds me of three other deaths that were chronicled in "Missing 411- Western United States", the disappearance of Bart Schleyer from the Yukon Territory, Charles McCullar from Crater Lake National Park, and Robert Springfield from Montana. All

men had supposedly been killed and consumed by bear yet intact clothing was found around their body. McCullar's belt and Schleyer's pants and Springfield's vest were found untouched, and all three individuals had been consumed by something. Yes, my wording was correct, consumed by something.

I don't fault law enforcement for trying to explain away a complicated situation. Communities expect law enforcement agencies always to have the ability to explain anything; that's the comforting aspect of local government, making the community feel they have everything is under control. It isn't until you start to review cases from throughout the United States that specific patterns in unique cases start to make their appearance known.

I do believe that Sam Adams was probably consumed at some point by a bear as bear remains were found in the area. If this incident happened today, forensics would determine if human remains were in the bear scat, as they did in the Bart Schleyer incident in the Yukon Territory. Newspapers reported that Bart was consumed by a bear, and his remains were found in the scat, a lie, confirmed by Yukon Fish and Game o icials. There are too many unanswered questions to put this story into a tight little box and put it away. Could an Ursine have killed Sam? Why wasn't it stated that human remains or clothing was found in bear scat, probably because it wasn't?

William Cormack

Missing: July 22, 1959, Thompson Peak, Superior Age at Disappearance: 55 years

Missing Clothing* Missing Shoes* Loss of Memory

The story of how supply packer William Cormack initially disappeared is intertwined with the disappearance of his boss and owner of a sheepherding company in Superior, MT; both stories are equally bizarre. On or about July 21, 1959, Bill Cormack from Yakima, Washington, worked for the Faure and Servell Sheepherding Company for almost three years. His job was to lead a supply train of horses and mules through the Lolo National Forest ten miles west of Superior to the sheep's site. This was a reasonably uneventful job for those three years until something so bizarre and unusual happened that the county sheri stated that he couldn't understand what happened.

The sheep camp was approximately 15 miles from Superior, Montana. Cormack loaded four horses and two mules with supplies. He headed

into the wilderness with his rifle for a ride to the camp.

The sheep company knew that Cormack was en route to their location and expected him sometime near July 22; he never arrived. Walter Eastman was a sheepherder at the camp, and he rode into town to report Cormack missing. He rode the trail that Carmack should've been on and never saw the pack or his supplies.

Sheri Francis Tamietti was a veteran of searching for missing people. He quickly organized a search party, and they started to arrive at base camp. He ordered an airplane and 20 equestrian searchers to scour the area in a grid pattern.

Sheri Tamietti and Ranger O.J. Esterl eventually found a two-mile stretch of scattered supplies extending along a ridgeline. Equipment was littered everywhere. After a continued search, several of the pack animals were found tangled in their harnesses and ropes. Some saddle packs were twisted and "some partly torn o ' (Tri City Herald, 7/26/59). Further up the hill, searchers found that the lead horse had been tied to a tree and had struggled to get free. Searchers stated that the ground in the area was very hard, and they could not see tracks. They also noted that none of the animals appeared to have injuries inflicted by a bear or mountain lion. Searchers eventually found Cormack's rifle in the dirt on a hillside, not on a trail. There was dirt in the barrel, but the gun had not been fired. They conducted an extensive search of the area and could not find Cormack.

In a very surreal coincidence, as searchers were still looking for Cormack, the sheepherding company owner, Joe Servel went missing from his camp. The sheri and rangers had two simultaneous searches going for two people from the same company. The co-owner of the sheepherding company, John Faure, stated that Servel was last seen at their camp 15 miles from Superior, MT.

After searching for almost eleven days, Cormack's body was found on a Bitterroot Mountain trail. Searchers stated that it appeared that Cormack had died of natural causes. Reports indicated that they found the man o the trail in a sitting position one- quarter of a mile from where they found his horses and mules. It appeared to the sheri that he had died of natural causes. I could not find any other information on Cormack other than his body was sent to a funeral home.

Two days after Cormack's body was located, searchers found Joe Servel wandering 17 miles from the Lost Gulch area. Servel was not wearing shoes or socks. An article appeared on July 29, 1959, in the

Robesonia stating the following;

“The 67-year-old co-owner of a Washington sheep company was found wandering barefoot in a rocky western Montana canyon Tuesday. Joe Servel of Yakima had been missing since Saturday in the rugged area where one of his pack train operators was found dead three days ago. Sheri Francis Tamietti said Servel couldn’t explain how he had wandered away from his mountain camp. Su ering from shock and exposure, he was taken to a Superior hospital.”

Case Summary

Let’s first discuss Cormack and his body versus the location of his equipment and horses. It took searchers an additional nine days to locate Cormack after finding his equipment strewn for two miles along a ridgeline. It appears that someone tried to rope his horse to a tree as it is described that the horse attempted to escape. Carmack had been operating a supply train for three years; he was a very experienced woodsman. Mountain men know not to go anywhere without their firearm; that is a lifeline. Carmack was found dead on a trail nowhere near the equipment, rifle, or horses. The gun was found on the side of a hillside with dirt in the barrel, as though it had been thrown and dirt entered the barrel. Who tied up Cormack’s horse (someone did)? We know that Cormack wouldn’t have done that, he would’ve ridden the horse. Searchers stated that the animals did not have any injuries consistent with bears or mountain lions. Something spooked the pack train so much that it nearly killed the horses and mules and did kill Cormack. I know something about mules, they are very smart, and they are not afraid of much. They will stick around and fight rather than flee. They can easily kill a mountain lion and prob-ably take on a large bear. Whatever happened to that pack train was highly unusual and must’ve frightened the horses and mules nearly to death.

I’m not one to believe in coincidences, especially in the wilds of North America. To think that the disappearance of Servel and Cormack are not intertwined would not be rational. How the disappearance of the two came to happen is unknown. When Servel was interviewed about how he wandered away from camp and didn’t have shoes, he couldn’t answer and didn’t know: how that would happen? This man lived in the woods; he knew that mountain like you know your street. Something occurred to Servel’s memory that either scarred him so bad that he temporarily had amnesia or something worse happened, we will never know.

Ernest Bru ey

Missing: August 20, 1959, Granite Peak, Sweet Grass County

Age at Disappearance: 38

Water» Granite» Intellect» Photographer

The topic of this story was a very giving, brilliant, athletic man named Ernest Bru ey. Early in his career, he was a college professor, and in 1959 he was an architectural engineer working for a construction firm in Havre. Ernest and his wife had adopted four children and lived a comfort-able life.

Ernest was not only a giving person; he was also a multi-talented person. He was very gifted in photography, and in May of 1959, he had been asked to display his work by the Montana Institute of the Arts. He was also known in the community for his outstanding mountain climbing skills and regularly went to the mountains to photograph his adventures.

On August 16,1959, Ernest left his home in Havre and drove to Mystic Lake near Granite Peak in Sweet Grass County. He told his wife that he planned to do some photography and climb a peak near Grasshopper Glacier and then Wolf Mountain.

On August 17,1959, there was a devastating earthquake 65 miles west of Capital Peak. The earth started to shake at 11:37 p.m. and reached a magnitude of 7.2 on the Richter scale. The shaker was called the "Hebgen Earthquake" and killed 28 and caused eleven million dollars in damage, equal to ninety-six million dollars today.

Ernest was supposed to return home on August 19, when he didn't arrive, Mrs. Bru ey called the sheri . Deputies did respond to Mystic Lake trail- head and found Ernest's car parked right where they were told it would be. The United States Forest Service assisted the sheri in

going into the wilderness looking for the mountaineer. This August 29, 1959 article in the Montana Standard had these details, “A five-man search team from regional Forest Service Headquarters in Missoula has been sent to aid Custer National Forest personnel and Stillwater County sheri ’s o icers in the hunt. The team was led by Thad Lowery, a veteran mountain climber, and Ed Slusher, a former ranger in the Granite Peak area. Both have climbed the 12, 850-foot mountain, highest in Montana. Other members of the team are Smoke jumpers Hugh Fowler, Lloyd Reeseman, and Joe Gutowski.”

The searchers stayed in the backcountry for over a week. They covered multiple peaks in the area and found nothing related to Ernest, except one thing. This September 2, 1959, article in the Independent Record had these details, “John Forsman, Custer National Forest Supervisor, said a five-man forest service team found that Bru ey had scaled the peak (Granite) on August 16. He left a message in the brass cylinder on the summit- “Edward Bru ey, 8/16/59, via east ridge.” “Earlier reports had it that Bru ey was believed to have been lost in a slide caused by the August 17 earthquake. Forsman said the search party, of which two members are very familiar with the area, found no evidence of earthquake damage around the 12,850 peak.”

The forest service climbers’ report eliminated any claims that Ernest died due to a mountain slide related to the earthquake. Several search teams from Sweet Grass County Sheri ’s entered the region and looked for evidence of where Ernest may have camped or where his equipment may be located. All of the searches came up empty.

There were many articles written about this event in the months following the disappearance. Mrs. Bru ey revealed that Ernest had spent time in the Army and did have flashbacks when loud bangs and explosions happened, which was why he enjoyed the mountains.

Ernest’s exceptional athletic ability was on display when he drove to the Mystic Lake parking lot one day and climbed Granite Peak that very same day, an amazing feat. Mystic Lake Trailhead is five air miles from the summit of Granite Peak but is easily 8-10 miles to the summit via the eastern access from Tempest Mountain that Ernest took.

Ernest Bru ey wasn’t your average man. He gave of his soul by taking four adopted children into the home with his wife. He gave back to his nation by doing his time in the United States Army. This man also had an intellectual and artful side exemplified and acknowledged through his photography and appreciation shown by the Montana Institute of

the Arts. Many articles were written in the years after this event that hoped he was alive and living in other places. All of the allegations were investigated, and Ernest was never located. Havre Montana lost a great citizen.

This wasn't the only good soul that Granite Peak would take. Skip ahead to July 30, 1988, and another man vanishes under unusual circumstances.

Update: In August of 2000, a group of climbers found a boot and some bones that appeared to be human just below the Granite Peak summit. The boot appeared to be of the same vintage as when Ernest was there, according to Al Jenkins, Park County Coroner. He stated that it would cost $6000 to conduct DNA testing and there was not anyone that was a direct blood descendent. They were doubtful that any DNA testing would be completed.

Arthur Dillon Jordan

Missing: November 8, 1959, Seeley Lake Age at Disappearance: 59 years

Mini Cluster* Weather* Hunter

On October 23,1959, Arthur Jordan left the Teepee Lodge just east of Kalispell as he headed for Seeley Lake for a month of elk hunting. Jordan was a conscientious husband and called his wife regularly. The couple talked about hunting and when his wife should expect another call. That next call never came, and his wife reported Arthur missing on November 8,1959. Snow had hammered the Seeley Lake area just before November eighth, and it toppled phone lines in the area. Missoula County Sheri 's sent 26 men into the Seeley Lake area to search for Arthur even though weather and ground conditions were treacherous. After two weeks of extensive searching, deputies located Jordan's pickup and camp. Inside the pickup, they found his. 30-06 rifle and a hunting jacket. A November 25,1959, article in the Daily Interlake stated, "Thirty-four searchers tracked through the snow-covered Seeley Lake country. They found remains of an elk with one quarter missing." A follow-up article written on April 12, 1960, stated, "Jordan's camp was found intact last fall with guns, clothes, ammunition and a freshly butchered elk."

After several starts and stops and an additional spring search, Arthur Jordan was never found.

Case Summary

What can we surmise from this story? Something profound happened to Arthur Jordan. Grizzly bears are hibernating during November, and if they did attack Arthur, there would be a vast, bloody scene, which they never found. Arthur did not leave the confines of camp voluntarily, or he would have taken his coat and rifle, both were found in his truck. The real question is, what happened to the % of elk that was missing from the camp? Did whoever take Arthur take the elk? Why would someone take % of the elk? Why not take the entire animal?

If someone was bold enough to take an elk and Arthur, why not take his valuables in the truck? Whoever or whatever took Arthur had to have an unbelievable ability to survive in the wild, as conditions at the time were treacherous.

Something very unusual happened to Arthur Dillon Jordon. He is the second hunter that vanished around the Seeley Lake area and has never been located.

Bill Whitney

Missing: August 20,1960, Strawberry Lake, Flathead County

Age at Disappearance: 70 years

Water* Cluster Zone

This case surprised me when I found it. I had just completed investigating the disappearance of David Partlow (missing, 05/09/87). Partlow had taken o from a hang glider from the mountains at the southern end of Lake Blaine, just five miles from this missing person's location. The fact we have two cases in such proximity to each other is very unusual.

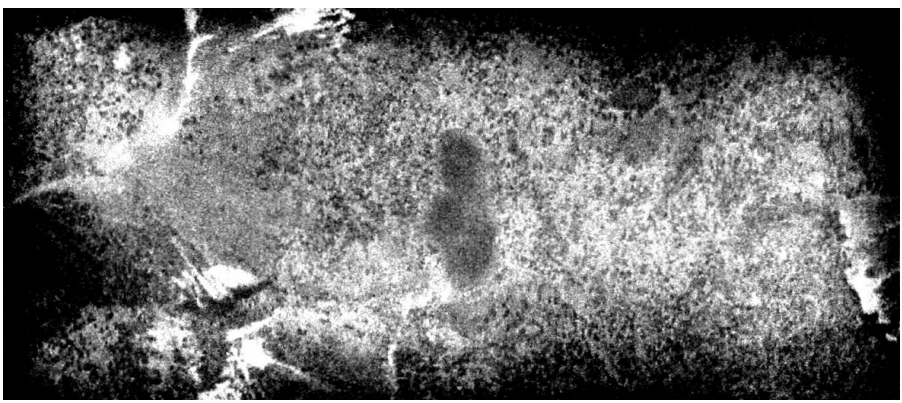
Trailhead sign to Strawberry Lake and Bill Whitney s camp location.

Bill Whitney was retired and collecting a pension at his two bedrooms, one bath single story residence at 825 tenth street in Kalispell. Bill had a prospecting hobby and had a camp in the mountains on the east side of the Flathead Valley above Creston. The camp was in a gorgeous setting next to Strawberry Lake. This September 5, 1960, article in the Daily Interlake explained how he was reported missing. “Whitney, who is retired, does a lot of prospecting in this area with a Geiger Counter, but he usually returns to town to draw his pension check. When he failed to show up, a check was made.” Another article dated September 6,1960, from the Montana Standard had details from Whitney’s camp, “Vic Hurbert and Charles Druesdow found Whitney missing when they made a check of his camp after he did not return home at his customary time. Rust cooking utensils, two rusty guns, and a sleeping bag wet from the bottom up indicated that Whitney had not been in his camp for some days. A calendar with ten days from August 9, including the 20th, crossed out, also was found in camp. Apparently all of Whitney’s belongings were still in camp with the exception of his Geiger counter.”

Strawberry Mountain

The Flathead County Sheri sent a dozen men into the Strawberry Lake area to look for Whitney.

Deputies were told that the prospector had told Joe Kau man he was going to the old Red John Osterberg diggings in the canyon north of his camp on Krause Creek. Friends of Bill and deputies searched for nearly a week and found nothing related to the missing man except what was located in his camp. The situation was not making much sense since he knew the area like you know your backyard. The idea that he was lost was ludicrous. All he had to do was walk downhill, and he'd end up in the Flathead Valley and civilization.



Aerial View of Strawberry Lake

The first search was terminated on September 8. There was another one day search on September 19, 1960, sponsored by Bill's friends. There was a group of ten men that searched for twelve hours and didn't locate anything. On September 17, 1961, a year later, the sheri made another public statement asking for any hunters in this area to be on the lookout for the prospector.

Searchers never found any evidence of animal predation. If Bill had been attacked, his boots and the Geiger County would still be viable search targets today.

We know from the calendar that was found in Bill's camp, he either disappeared on August 20 or August 21 and that he had taken a hike to Krause Creek with his Geiger Counter. The million-dollar question,

what happened to Mr. Whitney?

I still find it extraordinarily odd that Bill told friends that he would be on Krause Creek, and this is where he was supposedly last located. Krause Creek is even closer to the Lake Blaine launch point of David Partlow than Strawberry Lake.

I can guarantee that the hundreds of thousands of visitors that look at Strawberry Mountain each year do not know that there is a cluster of missing people from this specific point.

Bill Whitney has never been found.

Fritz Frey

Missing: November 14, 1960, Lolo

Age at Disappearance: 65 years

Hunter* Weather

Fritz Frey was a Missoula Rancher who enjoyed the outdoors, specifically hunting. On November 14, 1960, Fritz went to the Petty Creek Wilderness and Johns Creek on a hunting excursion. The elevation in the Johns and Petty Creek area is between 4000-5200 feet. Fritz supposedly was last seen on the West Fork of Petty Creek, but some believe he may have gone to the Johns Creek area. The Petty Creek Wilderness is approximately 20 miles west of Missoula.

A massive search party was led by Missoula County Sheri William Walker and spent several days searching various drainages and failing to find any clue as to what happened to the hunter. Search e orts were continually hampered by snow flurries that hit the area at the time Fritz disappeared.

In June of 1961, Sheri Walker again formed a search team of nearly 100 people and scoured Fritz's area. Professional trackers, smokejumpers from the federal fire service, and law enforcement professionals all participated in the weekend search and failed to find any trace of Fritz.

I could not find any news clippings indicating Fritz was ever found.

Delmar Berg

Missing: October 21, 1961, Absaroka Mountains

Age at Disappearance: 21 years

Weather* Point of Separation* hunter

October 21,1961, was not a good day for hunters in the northwestern part of the United States; two hunters disappeared. Both of the victims were healthy, active young men. They vanished in states that adjoin each other, Idaho and Montana. The distance between the incidents, two hundred miles. Considering that there were thousands of hunters in the woods in almost every state and province in North America, the only two cases on this date is the disappearance of Fred Dorsey from Idaho (Refer to Dorsey Story for details) and Delmar Berg from Montana, the locations are very close to the same longitudinal line, quite a coincidence.

In October of 1961, twenty-seven-year-old Delmar Berg was a successful assistant manager of a finance company in Billings, Montana. He was married to his pregnant wife and excited about soon becoming a father. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting in the area south of Livingston.

On Saturday, October 21,1961, Delmar and friends Phil Ness, George Shuman, and Bruce Bowman were hunting the South Fork of Six Mile Creek in the Absaroka Mountains thirty miles south of Livingston. The region is very rugged with steep mountains and excellent hunting. At 8 a.m. on the morning of the 21st, Delmar got separated from the group. Later that same morning, the group heard a series of five shots in relatively rapid succession, a very odd thing to hear from another hunter. The group eventually made it back to their camp and could not locate Delmar. They searched until nightfall and still could not find their friend. At midnight, Bruce Bowman drove into Livingston and contacted the sheri to report his friend as missing.

The search for Delmar started the morning of October 22 when the sheri and local game warden arrived at the hunting camp and began to look through the woods. The October 24, 1961, edition of the Missoulian had these details of the SAR, “A search for Delmar Berg, 25 (age varies according to articles). Billings, missing on a hunting trip since Saturday, was called o Monday night until the weather improves. Albert Nickerson, Park County Sheri , said ten inches of snow had blown into drifts four and five feet deep.”

The search for Delmar was a roller coaster ride based on weather conditions. It was eventually terminated November 8 after the snow got too thick to travel through. Hundreds of farmers and area ranchers

had assisted in the e ort to locate the lost hunter, and nobody had found anything. They attempted to locate the person that fired the five rounds heard by Delmar's hunting companions; they never determined who the person might be. It was later believed the individual firing the round had to be Delmar.

All of Delmar's friends stayed and searched for their friend during all facets of the SAR. Nobody found any of the hunter's property, and tracks were never located.

Delmar was a very experienced outdoorsman and hunter. I tried to think through all of the scenarios that would force a big game hunter to fire five rounds in rapid succession, and I can't rationally think of a logical answer. If he were shooting at an elk, the animal would be spooked after the first shot, and it would run. You might get another shot at it before it disappeared into the trees. If he shot and wounded the animal and put it down, he might fire one or two additional rounds to kill it. If he had wounded the animal and out it down, searchers would've located it, and they didn't.

Delmar Berg was never found.

William Weller

Missing: August 2,1962, Hell Roaring Creek, Carbon County

Age at Disappearance: 76 years

German* Illness/Disability* Berries* Weather*

It's unusual in this day and age to read about someone that spent almost their entire adult life living alone in the wilderness. I think it would be di icult for the majority of us to understand living in a mountain cabin without insulation, no forced air heating, no electricity, no running water, no flush toilet, no phone or internet, and living life o the grid. The person who this story is about lived a life exactly as I have just explained.

From 1910 till almost 1961, William Weller lived alone in a remote cabin in the Beartooth Mountains of southern Montana. The Beartooth Mountains contain the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the Custer, Shoshone, and Gallatin National Forest. The mountains also have the largest mountain in Montana, Granite Peak. These mountains produced many valuable minerals, including gold, silver, copper, and lead ore. The signature peak in the mountains is Beartooth Peak; yes, it does look like a bear tooth sticking up out of the ground.

William Weller was an unusual person in the twentieth century. It is described in the August 9,1962, edition of the Billings Gazette, “Weller is self-educated and loves to sing primarily old German folk songs. He was born in Germany on January 10, 1886, and came to the United States when he was 14. He came to Montana via New York City, Omaha, Nebraska, and Wyoming about 1905. Shortly afterward, he obtained his homestead. The cabin is stated to have been ransacked by vandals after he left.” From everything I read, William kept his German heritage close.

As William was reaching the 1960s, it was reported that he had a stroke and started to have issues with his health. He decided to move out of his remote cabin and move into Red Lodge. This move meant that William would no longer be making a living as he had for the last 50 years as a prospector. When he moved into town, he made several friends and continued to help others who came to him looking for assistance.

One of the friends that William was very close to was Jimmie Joe. Jimmie had a cabin on Hell Roaring Creek approximately twenty miles south of Red Lodge.

William was approached by Mr. Joe, asking him if he could take care of his dog that was staying at his cabin. Jimmie stated that he would be gone for two days and requested William to go in and stay with the canine.

Jimmie was leaving from Red Lodge on August 2 and would return no later than Sunday, August 5, 1962. William had told Jimmie that he would walk into the cabin on Thursday, August 2. Jimmie returned to his homestead and found his dog had not been fed for days. He determined that William had never been to the cabin. Jimmie left immediately for Red Lodge to check on Weller. Mr. Joe determined that William wasn’t home, realized that something had to be wrong with Weller, and contacted the sheri .

The Carbon County Sheri organized a team and hiked into Joe’s cabin on Hell Roaring Creek on August 6. An August 11,1962, edition of the Billings Gazette had these details of the sheri ’s search, “About 25-30 Boy Scouts, forest rangers and volunteers have been searching the area every day since contacted by Joe. Wednesday, a group which had been picking huckleberries in the vicinity said they had seen Weller near the cabin a week ago Thursday. He hasn’t been seen since.” The search team was pleased they found a group that could confirm William was in the area of the cabin in the time frame he had stated

he would arrive. The SAR group was also dismayed that they hadn't found the retired prospector. The SAR team also knew that William wore two sets of glasses because of nearsightedness and a stigmatism.

SAR coordinators spoke to Williams's close friends and learned it was the consensus belief that William could not survive long alone in the wilderness. The search had now rolled into August 13, eleven days after William was last seen, and seven days of intensive searching had taken place without finding anything.

In the August 13, 1962 edition of the Billings Gazette, there was this comment from law enforcement, "Sheri Otho S. Ford said Sunday he was sure the old mountain man had met some misfortune. Ford added that the search would go on, but probably not on a full scale. He has little hope of finding the man alive." This was the last article that was ever written about the search for William Weller.

I have a hard time believing that searchers would not have found evidence of William being in the area if there had been any predation; none was reported. He could not move well because of his stroke, so the idea that he walked out of the area is not prudent.

William Weller was never found.

David Paul Wilson

Missing: July 21, 1963, Glacier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 21 years

Cluster Zone* Intellect* Water

**See cluster chapter under Glacier National Park for details

Kenneth Gelston

Missing: July 24, 1964, Glacier National Park Age at Disappearance: 22 years

• National Park* Intellect* Water

****See cluster chapter under Glacier National Park for details

Timothy Shear

Missing: November 23,1975-p.m., Little Belt Mountains

Age at Disappearance: 22 years

Canines* Weather* Hunter

The Little Belt Mountains are located almost in Montana's geographical center, approximately one hundred miles north of Bozeman. The mountains reach elevations nearing nine thousand feet and are located in the Lewis and Clarke National Forest. These are rugged and wild mountains and known for excellent hunting. The exact location of this incident was 25-300 miles northeast of White Sulphur Springs.

On November 23, 1975, United States postal worker Timothy Shear went hunting in the area near the boundary lines of Meagher and Judith Basin Counties. Timothy didn't come out of the mountains, and his friends notified law enforcement. The first two days focused on Meagher County, and it then switched to Judith Basin County because a hunter was found who claimed to have spoken with Timothy on November 23.

Searchers did find some interesting pieces of possible evidence. They first located an orange hunting vest hanging in a tree, the same type Timothy wore. What is interesting about this is that it matches what was found during the search for Jimmy Rambone in Quebec, another missing hunter that was never found. He disappeared, and searchers found his orange vest hanging in a tree (Missing 411: North America and Beyond). Searchers on Timothy's SAR also located a lean-to shelter that appeared to be recently made. In several searches for missing people, ground teams have located these in the areas where the person vanished. It's never been explained who or what had made them.

Bloodhounds and helicopters from Malmstrom Air Force Base were used in an attempt to locate Tim. Two days after Tim vanished, a severe snowstorm hit the area and dropped two feet of snow, inhibiting search e orts.

Air and ground searchers failed to find any tracks or campfires that may have been made by Timothy. Bloodhounds failed to pick up the hunter's scent at any location. The search was terminated after seven days.

Nothing happened on this case until July of 1976. A July 19, 1976, article in the Havre Daily stated that a thirteen-member Cascade County SAR team found Schock's remains in the upper tributary to the

Smith River. Here is a quote from that article, “The dismembered remains were found near where the postal worker’s clothing, hunting knife, rifle, and binoculars were spotted earlier in the day. Eusterman said it appeared Schock’s body had been torn apart by bears.” It is extremely rare to find a body dismembered. It should be relatively easy to tell if a bear had attacked a body, and, surprisingly, the SAR coordinator didn’t o er a more definitive explanation on the dismemberment. I hope the Schock family had some minor relief knowing Tim had been located.

Joseph Zorko

Missing: August 8, 1976-10 p.m., West Glacier

**See cluster chapter under Glacier National Park for details. 158

Patton Seifert

Missing: February 23, 1979, Taylor Fork, Gallatin County

Age at Disappearance: 29 years

PhD Student in Physics* Intellect* Weather* Missing Equipment

I have made an association between extremely brilliant people who have vanished under unusual circumstances in past books. One of the categories I have centered on is physics. I have chronicled several physicists who have disappeared and have never been found and students getting their doctoral degrees in physics who were killed under highly strange circum-stances.

Patton Seifert’s friends knew her as Pat. She graduated from Ellis High School in Pittsburgh and went on to get her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Carnegie Mellon University (eighty-five miles south of Lake Erie). The student’s professors considered her brilliant. She applied to Montana State University in Bozeman for their physics doctoral program and was accepted. She was in the final year of her three- year studies.

Dates di ered when Pat left on a well-organized cross-country ski trip into the Taylor Fork area of Gallatin County, Montana. The journey started either February 20 or February 23. This location is just two miles west of Yellowstone National Park’s border and ten miles northwest of the Wyoming border. Friends and family stated that Pat knew this area of Montana exceptionally well. She had years of experience as a backpacker and cross-country skier.

The trip was supposed to be a five-day trip; then she'd be back at school. When she didn't come back, o icials started a search. There were theories that Pat extended the trip to watch the solar eclipse on February 26, something her friends said she might have done. A March 10,1979, edition of the Pittsburgh Press, "A 40-inch snowfall February 27 through March 1 made the possibility of survival remote. She was supposed to return from her trip on February 25."

The search consisted of airplanes, snowmobiles, friends on skis, and a multitude of other resources. The Gallatin County sheri reported finding her poles on a downhill grade; they never stated where. They searched that area extensively and found nothing additional. A March 10, 1979, article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette had these details about the e ort to find Pat: "Her father, William A. Seifert Jr. of Oakland, said the search for his daughter had to be called o last Sunday because of heavy snowfall that hampered the search and made the possibility of survival remote."

O icials said conditions were ideal when Pat left for her trip. There was a twenty-five-inch snowpack with perfect weather. Sheri John Onstad said he believed Pat had traversed into Wapati, Cache, or Sage Creek. They weren't quite sure where she was or how she could've gone on much farther without her ski poles.

The search for the student resumed in late March. On April 1, a team found Pat's body. There was very little released about where or how the body was found and nothing about what she was or wasn't wearing. One article did say that they found her body in Gallatin Canyon near West Yellowstone. The sheri stated that he believed she had died of hypothermia, but I could not find a coroner's statement on the cause of death.

I find it incredibly odd that searchers found Patton's ski poles and not her at the same time. A cross country skier cannot travel far without their poles. How she managed to work her way away from the poles is a very intriguing question, or why she had dropped them.

Megan Ginevicz

Missing: April 30, 1980- 3:15p.m., St. Ignatius

Age at Disappearance: 2 years

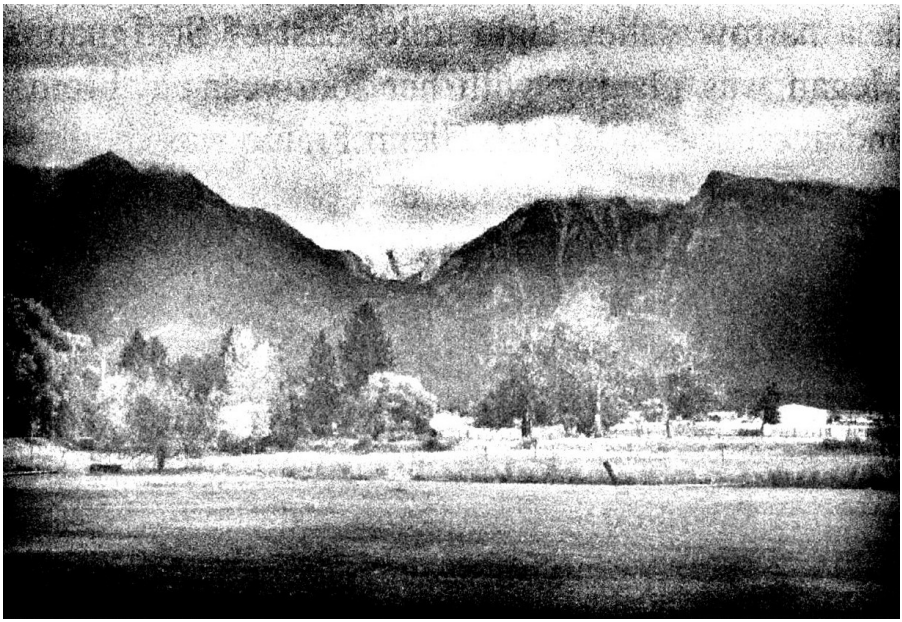
2'1", 25 lbs

Water* Weather* Canines

Dona Smith is Megan's mother and was divorced from her husband in April of 1980. Dona was employed as a nanny for a family at their remote residence in a valley on St. Ignatius's outskirts. Dona and Megan enjoyed the lifestyle and tranquility that came with the location. It was remote, with only one lonely road to the residence.

On April 30, 1980, Dona put Megan in their unfenced yard to play while she quickly did a few chores in the house. They were at the home of Bill Winn located in a narrow valley eight miles east of St. Ignatius. Megan was playing with her four-year-old brother and another small child. Glenn Frame was the Lake County Sheri in charge of the search and made this statement in the May 2, 1980, edition of The Missoulian, "He said the child was seen playing with other children about 3:15 p.m., then somehow became separated from them.

Family and area residents began searching for her a short time later, and by 8 p.m., the sheri was called." When Dona returned to the yard, the kids had wandered from the yard and were down near a trail approximately 100 yards from the home. She quickly found her son and the other child, but she could not locate Megan. She returned to the yard, searched more and still couldn't find her daughter. She soon realized that nobody had driven up their road; she would've seen and heard them. She searched the region around the house and couldn't find her daughter. She called law enforcement, and they were quickly on the scene.



Mountains of St Ignatius where Megan Ginevicz disappeared

Megan's residence is typical Montana Mountains, with large trees with lots of open range with significant wildlife. The exact location is approximately 25 miles north of Missoula and 25 miles south of Flathead Lake, and eight miles east of St. Ignatius. Lake County Sheri Glenn Frame personally supervised the case and searched the area by horseback, canines, four-wheel drive, foot, and air, all without finding one trace of Megan. Neighbors of the family were interviewed and confirmed that no vehicles had driven up the valley road, making it doubtful that a serial predator in a car took her. The sheri initially felt that Megan might have fallen into a swift-moving creek or river and

drowned, but searches failed to find her body. There was also speculation that possibly a grizzly bear or mountain lion had taken her, again no evidence of this was ever seen.

The formal search lasted seven days and found nothing.

Megan's father, William Ginevicz, lived in Boulder, Colorado at the time of the disappearance and did respond to the scene and assist in the search. William felt that his daughter was abducted and clearly stated this to the media.

Even though Megan disappeared in late April, hours after her disappearance, the area was hit by a heavy rain and snowstorm that lasted 110 days. The storm hindered searchers' ability to track and look for evidence, something that may have worked against search teams in the area.

Megan Ginevicz is listed at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as missing and a non-family abduction victim.

Case Summary

Megan's case isn't unique when you look at other children missing in rural areas, seemingly under their parent's domain and control when they go missing. I know that it isn't rational to think that a serial predator is lurking in the outskirts of a ranch, farm, or a national forest waiting for the opportunity to take children, but that is what the evidence dictates, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children have them classified as such.

Megan was a two-year-old girl; how far could she walk until she got tired? It doesn't make sense that Megan walked away under her own power. She was living in the area, and the mother knew the dangers. Megan was left outside a short period of time; someone or something had to be watching for the right time to take the child in order to disappear without leaving a trace of evidence. The real question is how the predator got into the area undetected and why they would go to these extremes to take a child, specifically a girl. The area around the residence was remote and rugged; the idea that someone got away with Megan and didn't leave a scent trail for law enforcement seems odd but is a recurring theme in most of the stories in this book.

It disturbs me greatly that Megan and Viola Jauran vanished just miles apart. The fact these were two very young girls disappeared just miles apart and neither was ever found bothers me immensely. When I look at the map of Montana and all of the disappearances, these two cases

are a couple of the geographical closest.

Megan Ginevicz has never been found.

Tracy Cray

Missing: February 13,1983- 4 p.m., Little Trail Creek, Gardiner

Age at Disappearance: 26

Weather* Canines* Point of Separation* Hunter

This incident could've happened in Wyoming or Montana based on the location. Specifically, it happened just east of Gardiner Montana on Little Trail Creek. I have consistently stated that elk hunters have a higher rate of disappearing and not being found than just about any other type of hunting, this mysterious case adds another.

In 1980, the Cray family moved from San Diego to Gardiner, Montana. Les Cray had taught his boys how to hunt and had them in the woods at a young age, teaching them the proper way to manage safety, stalk game, and respect wildlife.

In February of 1983, Tracy Cray was a twenty-six- year-old married man with two kids. Tracy and his wife Marsha were tight with Tracy's parents, and they were members of the Mormon Church. Tracy was considered by the family to be an outstanding hunter, knew the realities of being in the woods, and was a very smart outdoorsman.

On Sunday, February 13, 1983, the Cray family had late-season elk tags and decided to head into the wilderness and see if they could fill

them. Tracy, his dad Les and his brother Les III all drove to the Little Trail Creek Trail- head east of Gardiner. The trio walked three-quarters of a mile up a snow-packed trail until they reached a pine tree and decided to sit down. They each ate a snack when Tracy stood up and told the group he was going a bit higher up Niggerhead Mountain (yes, this was the name in multiple articles) the mountain, and he wouldn't be long. Les and Les III decided to turn around and went down the trail.

As the afternoon sun started to disappear, Les began to worry. When there was total darkness, he was scared. The family told reporters that, "Tracy was born to hunt." They followed that everyone believed he was a mountain goat, and nobody could lose him on the trail.

After firing multiple rounds in the air, hiking the trail numerous times, and calling Tracy's name, Les made the call to the Park County Sheri 's o ice and advised them that his son was missing.

Almost from the beginning, the Cray's church ward sent dozens of members to the trailhead to help with the SAR. A helicopter from Utah responded, and the National Park Service sent eight rangers, deputies from throughout the area combed the countryside. Everyone believed this was going to be a quick search because the site wasn't complicated or threatening. The one item that challenged the SAR from the beginning was explained in the November 9, 1987, edi-tion of the Montana Standard, "When Tracy didn't return by 10 p.m., his family notified authorities. But that night, it snowed, and the wind blew, wiping out any tracks that might have been found. Search e orts the next day failed to find any trace of Cray, and the next few days, the weather grew worse."

The SAR was called o two times because of weather-related issues in the first two weeks. Searchers were not that concerned about the weather because Tracy knew the outdoors. He was wearing a blaze orange vest over a warm coat, cotton pants, long underwear, red gaiters, brown rabbit fur gloves, and moon boots. Everyone believed that the orange vest would be easy to spot, especially from the air, but apparently, it was not. The hunter was carrying his rifle and a camera, items that would be unique to the environment.

The Park County Sheri had multiple airplanes in the air from the Civil Air Patrol; SAR had called in over twenty dog teams to pick up a scent. The search had been stopped multiple times, then o icially closed down after two weeks only to be started again by volunteers and church members. This April 23, 1983, edition of the Billings

Gazette had details about the canines, “Searchers on foot and in aircraft have found no trace of Cray, and tracking dogs failed to pick up a scent.”

There were additional searches through the summer months, all with tremendous resources, nothing was found. There were weekends in the summer of 1983 where 45-50 men who were members of Cray’s church, spent their entire weekend looking for Tracy. Nothing was ever located that indicated he was in that area. At one point, Les Cray purchased a mule to carry supplies deep into the backcountry. I’m always amazed at the commitment a family has to find their loved ones; I think it’s in our DNA that we can’t give up. I’ve known several family’s that have pursued searches and leads for years.

In September of 1983, Marsha Cray o ered a $5000 reward to anyone who could prove that her husband was deceased. She and her two kids couldn’t get social security benefits and were without an income, and if there was no proof that Tracy was dead, they couldn’t get a death certificate to get the needed family benefits. Nothing was found. In 1984, a Montana judge issued the Cray family a death certificate based on the sheri ’s multitude of searches and opinions; Tracy Cray was deceased.

I found several articles written after Tracy vanished, reflecting family members’ opinions about what might have happened. This July 1,1983, edition of the Billings Gazette had these statements from Mrs. Cray, “Anything is possible,” she said. “We’ve even considered a UFO.” There have been stories about unidentified flying objects picking up people, so there is a possibility this occurred in Tracy’s case, she said. Perhaps Tracy struck his head in a fall and walked out of the wilderness with amnesia, Mrs. Cray said.”

If there was ever a case that should absolutely baffle readers, this is it. Five years after Tracy vanished, there were articles in the Montana papers talking about the case’s mysterious nature. With the hundreds of hikers and hunters that trampled that valley over the years, someone should’ve spotted the remains. Belt buckles, rifles, cameras, these items will stay in the environment for decades.

The family did field its share of calls from psychics. I am always very skeptical of people calling victims’ families; I know of too many incidents where some of them are vultures asking for money (this happened in the Jaryd Atadero case). One psychic that the family described gave them information, which was almost like a riddle. They were told that if Tracy could stand up, he would interfere with a

microwave repeater (these are on many mountain tops). They claimed that he was overlooking a valley on the southwest side of the mountain. Volunteers spend days checking all of these leads; they led to nothing.

The Park County Sheri was interviewed many times about this incident and never had a good explanation as to why nothing has been located. I can tell you that in this disappearance, the sheri threw everything at that mountain, trying to get it to reveal where Tracy was located. I counted over 45 search days that involved government authorities; that is a lot. There were probably over 90 SAR days when you consider friend's relatives, and church members.

After this event, articles stated that the Cray family still made regular treks up the mountain looking for some remnants of their son. I can't imagine the anxiety and depression that followed the Crays in the years after the disappearance.

Tracy Cray was never found.

Nyleen Kay Marshall

Missing: June 25, 1983, Maupin Creek, Helena National Forest, Clancy

Age at Disappearance: 4 years

Water* Weather* Canines* Point of Separation

Nyleen Kay Marshall was with her family on a picnic in the Maupin Creek area in the Elkhorn Mountains of Montana, approximately fifteen miles southeast of Helena. The family was there for a ham radio operators exercise. Nyleen was playing with other children and, at one point, ran ahead of the group near a beaver pond and cabin owned by a member of the Ham Radio club. When the kids got to the

point where she was last seen, she was gone. Nyleen disappeared at approximately 4 p.m. at a location not far from her residence in Clancy. Nyleen was last seen without shoes.

Local authorities initiated a massive inch-by-inch search of the region around the creek and adjacent trails, nothing was found. There was a massive ten-day search e ort that included search dogs from Great Falls, multiple counties responded with SAR teams, and hundreds of locals came to search. Searchers were optimistic they would find Nyleen because of the number of berries in the region.

The area of this incident was very thick and lush with big trees. Searchers were committed to finding the girl and took a very systematic approach.

Towards the end of the ten-day SAR, divers were put in the creeks' water to ensure Nyleen was not there. The United States Air Force supplied two helicopters, and the National Guard ground transportation provided. This was one of the most extensive searches to ever happen in this area of Montana.

The FBI became involved in the case early in its inception. The agent in charge of Montana and Idaho, William Fallin, stated that there was a lack of abduction evidence, which had restricted their involvement, but he did say they had done a few interviews. Over the last three decades, several leads have been developed that Nyleen may be alive and living with another family. Nothing has ever been confirmed about what happened in the woods on June 25, 1983. The family and law enforcement feel that Nyleen was abducted.

It is tough to understand that a human perpetrator would risk being seen and take Nyleen with an entire ham radio exercise taking place in the area. The girl would scream, yell, fight, and make a scene that others may hear. People in this area of Montana carry guns, and bad guys know this. The fact that canines never tracked the girl tells me she was not in the area and somehow was removed quickly.

Nyleen Kay Marshall has never been found and, this is still considered an open and active missing person case.

Curtis Holmen

Missing: July 22,1984- 5 p.m., Placid Lake State Park Age at Disappearance: 31 years

Intellect* Water* Boulder/Granite I can guarantee that the mapping of missing people is extremely valuable. I never realized that the location of Curtis's disappearance was so close to the site of three other cases, refer to the map. I was honestly shocked to see the cluster form.

Curtis Holmen was a brilliant young man. He was raised in North Dakota and graduated with honors in elementary education from Jamestown College. At the time of this incident, he was divorced, but he and his wife worked for the National Park Service when married. After his divorce, Curtis took a year and traveled the United States from the southwest to Canada. He was a very experienced backpacker and hiker and loved to fish. In 1984 Mr. Holmen was a 7th and 8th-grade math teacher at the Target Range School in Missoula. He managed his finances well and had over $25,000 in cash in the bank.

On July 22, 1984, Curtis Holmen was on summer break and living at 1010 Washburn Avenue in Missoula. He was planning a fishing and hiking trip when his brother came out later in the summer. His immediate task was fixing a dead battery on his light blue 1976 Toyota Pickup. Anyone who saw the truck knew that Curtis loved the outdoors by the kayak racks built above the vehicle's bed.

It was 5 p.m. on July 22, 1984, when friends saw Curtis drive away from his residence. People who are not familiar with Montana may not know that during July, it sometimes does not get dark till 10:30 p.m., it's a great time of the year. Some friends thought that Holmen was taking a drive to charge his battery; others knew he was scouting a lake.

Curtis didn't come back after his drive. He had made plans to meet his girlfriend for a movie on July 23. When the teacher never made the meeting, he was reported as missing. There was di iculty understanding where Curtis may have gone until a friend stated that he was going to Placid Lake. It would have taken just under an hour for Curtis to drive the fifty-one miles from Missoula to Placid Lake State Park. A retired law enforcement o icer was berry picking at Placid Lake and found the 76 Toyota Pickup and notified rangers of a possible abandoned truck. The truck was located twelve days after Curtis vanished.

Law enforcement determined the truck was Curtis's and forced entry to find his wallet with $25 in cash and credit cards inside. An August 5, 1984, edition of the Missoulian had these details about what was located in the truck, "Deputies found a forest service map on which Fly Lake had been circled in green ink. Beaver Finlay Road, which winds past Elk Meadow, was also traced in green across the map. Holmen's truck was discovered Thursday at Elk meadows, near Placid Lake. Fly Lake is eleven air miles from Placid Lake." It might be eleven airmiles from point to point, but it is 22.6 hiking miles from Placid Lake to Fly Lake of rigorous hiking. There is no way Curtis

could have made the hike in the amount of time he had left on July 22.

Searchers were almost two weeks behind the missing hiker. The trails in this area are heavily traveled during July, and the reality of finding a boot track on these trails 14 days after someone passed through is nearly impossible. There was a rumor that someone claimed they found Curtis's boot mark on the trail with a Grizzly Bear track over the top, sorry, not believable after 14 days.

Placid Lake State Park and the backcountry on the right where Curtis was lost

during July, and the reality of finding a boot track on these trails 14 days after someone passed through is nearly impossible. There was a rumor that someone claimed they found Curtis's boot mark on the trail with a Grizzly Bear track over the top, sorry, not believable after 14 days.

Once the word went out that Curtis's truck had been found, over thirty of his friends responded to the area and o ered to search, as long as possible. Missoula County SAR was heavily involved in organizing searchers and maintaining safety in the area. The Missoula County sheri was a bit concerned about foul play as a local priest was missing and presumed murdered and were afraid that Holmen was another victim. The sheri claimed the finding of the wallet and cash ruled out robbery.

After several weeks of intensive searching, nothing was found in the wilderness related to Holmen. They found no evidence of animal predation, no evidence he was camping, nothing.

Case Summary

Curtis Holmen was a very fit and intelligent thirty-one-year-old man in the prime of life. He was gainfully employed, had money in the bank and a girlfriend.

I want to hit heavily on the Montana Cluster map. Holmen disappeared over a very rugged mountain range from the disappearances of Megan Ginevisz, Viola Jauran, and Lawrence Prange. There is a ten air-mile di erence between these locations.

Cases in Cluster (Years Between Cases):

Viola Jauran May 1923

25 years

Lawrence Prange August 1958

22 years

Megan Ginevicz April 1980

4 years

Curtis Holmen July 1984

If all of these incidents happened in twenty years, they would make the local papers' headlines, and law enforcement would take note. If I spread the events out over sixty-one years, nobody will ever know.

There were some rumors that Curtis may have been suicidal, I find nothing to support that allegation. Everything was going in the right direction for Curtis; something crossed his path that was deadly.

Curtis was never found.

Glenn Can-

Missing: October 25, 1984, Bob Marshall Wilderness Age at Disappearance: 40 years

Canines* Weather* Hunter* Previously Searched

During the summer of 2017, I went to Montana and researched a few missing person cases and then had the time to decompress and do a bit of hiking and fishing. I spent my downtime in the Bob Marshall and Spotted Bear Wilderness area approximately 50 miles northeast from Kalispell. To get to the place we wanted to fish, we spent over an

hour on a rough, rocky dirt road that kept people away. This area of Montana is very wild. If you are going to spend any time out-side of your vehicle, you better carry bear spray and a large caliber pistol.

To enforce the fact that Montana's area can be dangerous, on June 29,2016, o -duty and unarmed United States Forest Service Police O icer Brad Treat, 38 years old, was mountain biking with a friend in the Wilderness just north of the area I was fishing. Brad was leading the ride on a winding dirt trail. He came around a blind corner and hit a grizzly bear with his bike. The bear immediately and aggressively attacked him. The friend rode o for assistance. Police o icers arrived and found Brad dead from the attack. I knew this story while we were in the area, making the time on the river a bit jittery. The point of this story is that bear attacks are a possibility in any region that grizzly roams.

This story is about a California resident that used to live in Libby, Montana, that came back to hunt with friends. Glenn Carr was 40 years old when he joined his buddies in the area around Spotted Bear, Montana. They established their camp on November 23 and were hunting late that day. On October 24, Glenn was again on his horse and dismounted and was walking in an area looking for tracks. It was getting late in the day, and Glenn couldn't locate where he had tied his horse to a tree. The hunter decided to hike back to camp. He arrived, ate dinner, and went to sleep. He rose early on the morning of November 25, told his buddies he would make the 3 0-minute hike back to get his horse and would join them at their camp near the Spotted Bear Ranger Station in the afternoon.

It was late on October 25, and Glenn hadn't returned to camp, so his friends went to the Diamond R Ranch and notified the Flathead County Sheri of their missing friend. Chuck Rhodes was the county sheri and took charge of the search. Many articles outlined blowing wind and snow immediately after Glenn vanished. Searchers were walking through snow that was regularly 4 feet deep and sometimes up to 8 feet.

Glenn's friends explained to searchers that he was a very experienced woodsman, was carrying a handgun, and was dressed for cold weather. On October 31, a helicopter was able to fly the search area and spotted Glenn's horse tied to a tree in the area of No Name Creek. This find was a bit startling to the sheri as they had ground teams in that area in the past and had not heard or seen the horse. The SAR teams, along with multiple canine teams, inundated the region of the equine. They were able to find some tracks, two di erent older fire

pits, and then thought they saw tracks headed to the top of Spotted Bear Lookout. The path evaporated on the side of the hill.

These were the headlines in the article about Glenn for the Independent Record of November 3, 1984, “Weather hampers search for hunter.” Not only was the snow deep, but it would also snow at times and then rain at others. A 7-day search never found Glenn Carr. It’s a bit hard for me to understand that an experienced outdoorsman who was able to hike back to his camp once while in the wild could not find his horse on a second attempt and then make it back to his camp. A grizzly bear would be hibernating at this time of the year and would not be a suspect. If Glenn had been attacked, there would be a big red area, easily spotted from the air.

I have no explanation for what happened in this disappearance.

David Partlow

Missing: May 9, 1987, Columbia Mountain

Age at Disappearance: 29 years

♦♦Refer to “Glacier National Park Cluster” Chapter.

Brendan O’Connor

Missing: July 30, 1988, Goose Lake

Age at Disappearance: 22 years

Canines* Water* Granite* Cluster Zone* Illness/ Disability

Readers need to pay special attention to this case and the disappearance of Ernest Bru ey from Capital Peak on August 16, 1959. The similarities in the location and circumstances cannot be ignored.

In July of 1988, twenty-two-year-old Brendan O’Connor was employed at Old Faithful Geyser in-side of Yellowstone National Park. He had worked a successful long stretch without a day o . The park employee knew he had several days o starting on July 26 and started to plan his trip. On Tuesday, July 26, Brendan told friends he was going to climb. This August 5, 1988, edition of the Billings Gazette had these details, “Brendan O’Connor, 22, a summer worker in Yellowstone National Park departed July 26 on a hike near 12,799 foot high Granite Peak, Montana’s highest mountain. He was reported missing Saturday after failing to show up for work Friday night, and a search e ort began last

weekend. On Monday, searchers found O'Connor's pack at the north end of Goose Lake, which is six miles north of Cooke City."

The search e ort was contributed to by the National Park Service and three Montana Counties. This August 4, 1988, article in the Billings Gazette had details, "Ground search teams, dogs and three aircraft found no trace Wednesday of a 22-year old Philadelphia man missing in the rugged Bear Tooth Mountains for more than a week." Malmstrom Air Force Base, the home for many of the United States inter-continental Ballistic Missiles, contributed a helicopter and search team to the e ort to find O'Connor.

Searchers had many concerns about Brendon's welfare. They were not sure how much clothing he had brought with him and were a bit surprised to find his camp but no sleeping bag. This August 3 edition of the Billings Gazette outlined Brendon's medical issues, "The sheri 's o ice received a report that O'Connor had a history of hypoglycemia and was also an epileptic with seizures." Friends advised that they thought he had his condition under control with medication.

A Cessna 182 was brought into the SAR and flew the skies daily, looking for any hiker sign. Teams from multiple counties contributed as many as fifty searchers for eight days scouring Goose Lake, Capital Peak, and the surrounding valleys. SAR commanders knew that O'Connor was a very experienced hiker, although not familiar with the area he was camping. Weather during this time of the year was mild and did cooperate with searchers.

The search for Brendon started very optimistically because of athletic condition and knowledge of hiking. After eight days of almost non-stop searching, nothing beyond his campsite was located.

Brendon had many friends inside of Yellowstone National park, and after the formal search had stopped, they stepped in and covered the SAR area on their days o . Frustration enveloped the friends when they returned home at the end of the summer without locating their fellow worker.

The best count that I can confirm is that four canine teams were brought to Brendon's campsite, and none could track the hiker's scent.

It has been twenty-two years, and Brendon O'Connor has never been found.

Dan Wilson

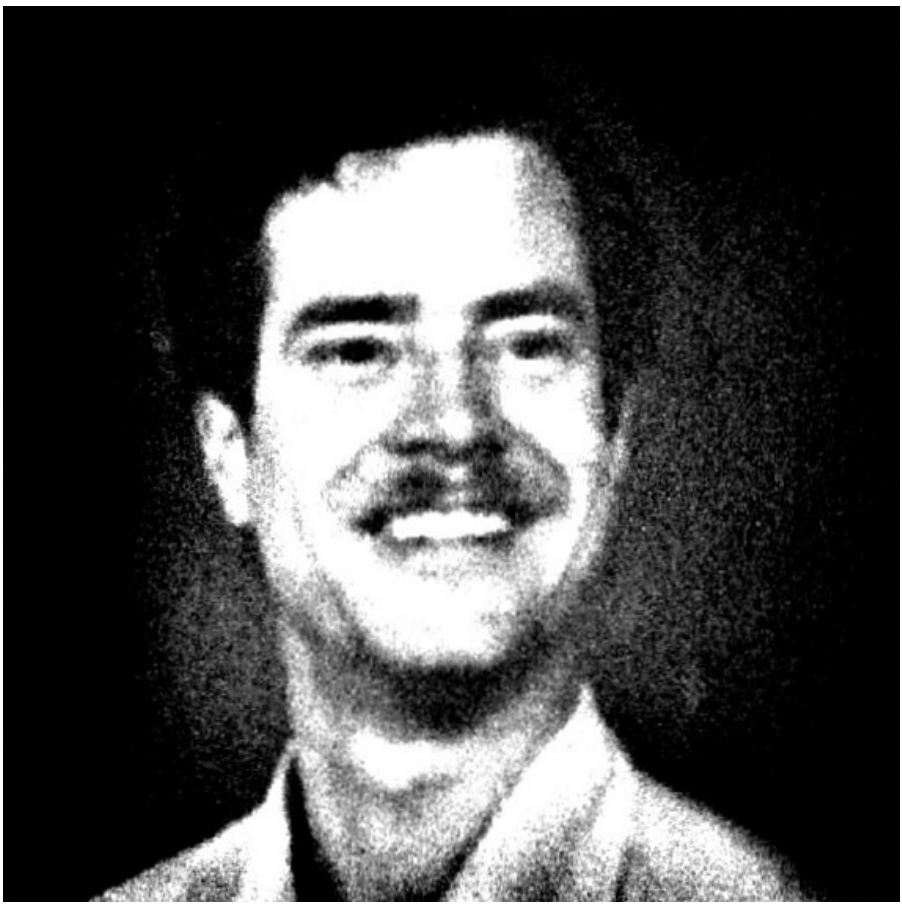
Missing: August 24, 1988, Custer County

Age at Disappearance: Approximately 35

Weather* Aircraft Crash* Missing Clothing* Lack of Tracks

It's a rare day when I get the sheri from any county on the phone discussing an old case that they worked. When I started to look into the disappearance of Dan Wilson, I was fortunate to be forwarded to the Custer County Sheri in Montana. The revelations the sheri made to me changed the entire paradigm I had on this case.

Dan Wilson was a recently divorced single dad working as an electrician in Spokane, Washington. His divorce in 1986 had hit him hard, and in fact, he su ered a nervous breakdown from the tearing apart of his family. Many people stated that Dan deeply loved his two young daughters and relished the time they spent together.



In August 1998, Dan was at his job and had an emotional encounter

with a supervisor. Dan was tight with his boss, and they knew he was su ering anxiety from his family issues, so they gave him the remainder of the day o work. He left ASC Machine Tools in Spokane at 11 a.m. and never returned.

Several days after Dan left work, neighbors had seen his sprinklers running for two days nonstop and called family members. They responded to the house and found his traveling gear at home and checks that hadn't been cashed. It appeared as though he had just stepped out for a minute. It was determined that he hadn't been home in days.

On August 29, 1988, Custer County deputies saw a car parked facing eastbound on the side of 1-94,15 miles west of Miles City. The vehicle was unlocked, a Bible sitting on the front seat, and nobody in sight. The license plate was checked for registration information and found that it was associated with missing person Dan Wilson from Washington. The area that the vehicle was found could best be described as small rolling hills, a desert environment with small bushes and weeds. The Custer County Deputy that located Dan's car was now Custer County Sheri Tony Harbaugh. Sheri Harbaugh was kind enough to give me a lengthy interview about the real story behind the search for Dan.

The family told deputies that Dan had family in Longmont, Colorado, and had regularly taken a route from Spokane that went through segments of Montana. What confused family and law enforcement were that Dan's car was found many miles east of where he should've turned south.

I was told that there were many fires in this region of Montana in 1988. It was the general belief that Dan left the car and traveled on foot in an unknown direction. Local hotels, motels, hospitals, and jails were checked without success. There was a decision that Deputy Harbaugh would go up in a plane and search the vicinity by air. He explained that the region was smoky, and visibility was low when the planes rear stabilizer hit a high-tension line and forced a rough landing. Sheri Harbaugh survived this incident without significant injury. The search by air for Dan was over.

The Custer County Sheri at the time put deputies and searchers on

horse and foot in the area looking for anything that would point to Dan; they could not locate anything.

There were no new developments on this case for nine years. In September of 1997, a cowboy was herding cattle on the south side of Highway 94 approximately 5 miles south of where Dan's vehicle was found and several miles from the roadway, located a skull and teeth, no lower jaw. Deputy Harbaugh was sent back into the area with other searchers to look for additional evidence. He stated it was a massive search looking for clothes, shoes, belt buckle, anything that pointed to Dan being there. They could not locate anything else. The sheri stated it was not a strenuous hike from where the car was found. A better description of the area where the skull was discovered was in a small rocky wash.

The skull was sent to the Montana state crime lab, where they compared the teeth with what Dan's family had on file from Spokane; it was a match. Dan Wilson's remains had been found, sort of. They never located any other bones, clothes, boots, shoes, nothing.

This case matches many in which I have documented people deciding to abandon an area and not tell others where they are going. Even if there was a mental health issue as part of the rationale for leaving, this does not account for the strange location Dan's skull was found. It was determined that his vehicle had a small exhaust leak, and there was gas in his tank. Why would he abandon a working car in the middle of nowhere?

I had the opportunity to interview a retired NPS law enforcement ranger for Missing 411: Western United States. Marion Jack was a longtime ranger at Crater Lake National Park, and I was talking to him about a missing person found under very similar circumstances to Dan. People had located a skull in the middle of nowhere but never found his boots. I asked Marion if this was normal. He told me that he had worked dozens of cases where a body was found deep in the woods, and they always found boots as they were something that weathered the elements well. Most boots are made of leather and rubber, as are most shoes. Where are Dan's shoes?

It is highly improbable that Dan got lost in the environment and died. Look at Google Earth of this area, and it's quickly apparent that it's flat, and you could see for miles. If his car did stall for some reason, it would be common sense to follow the highway to the next town. Some people felt that he might have accepted a ride from someone and rode o ; this didn't happen.

Some articles stated Dan probably died from exposure. Disappearing in Montana during the fall, spring, or winter, I could buy into the exposure idea, not summer months.

Dan's house's appearance reminds me of someone who left in a rush, but a hurry to go where and why?

Dan Wilson's story brings up many questions: Why did he depart his residence without luggage and clothes?

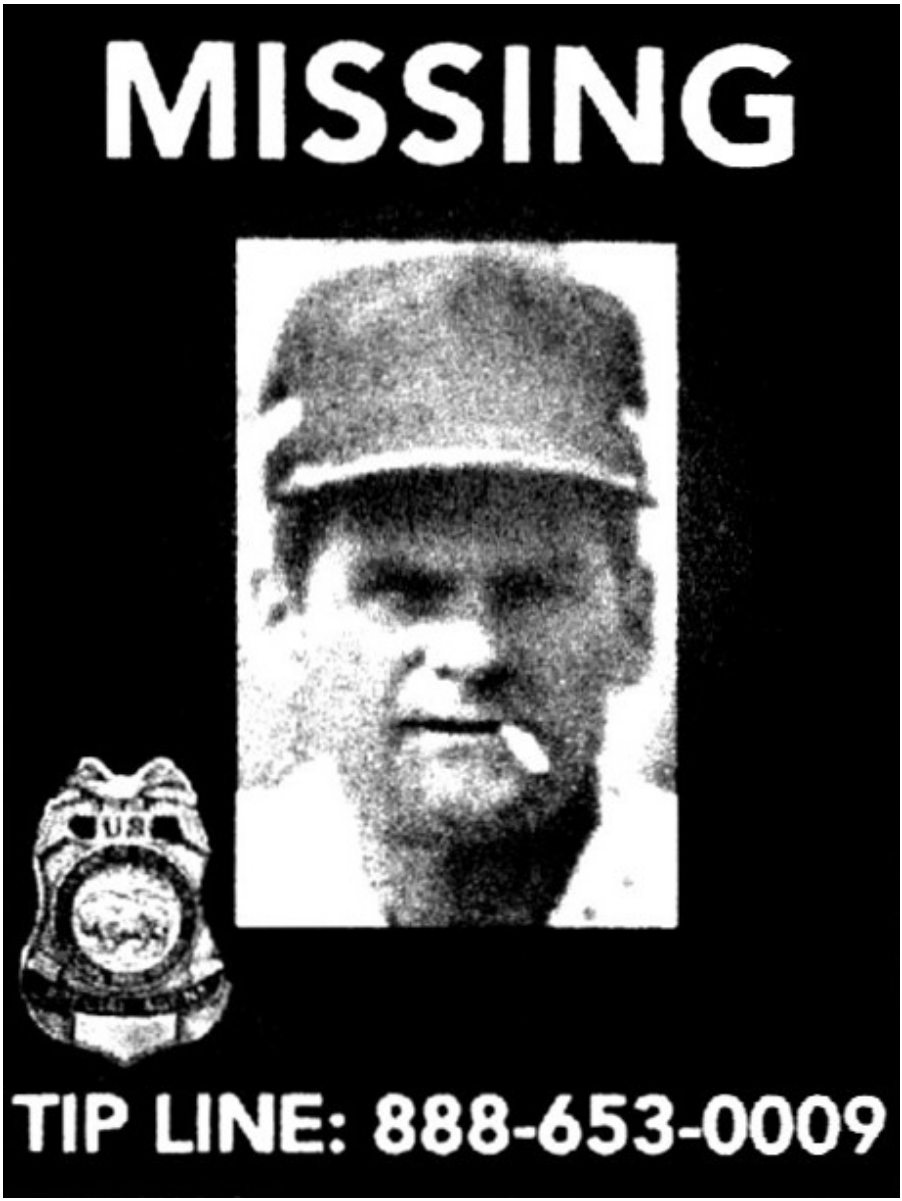
How or why did he miss his turno to travel to Colorado?

Why would he walk across the desert, and where was he going?

What happened to his shoes and clothes?

Would a father voluntarily leave and make a choice never to see his two daughters again? During my conversation with Sheri Harbaugh, he admitted that this case didn't make sense and bothered him to this day. He stated that the circumstances of Dan's disappearance and subsequent skull recovery were strange. He cryptically said that he's seen and heard many strange and unusual things in Custer County in the last 40 years. I asked him what he meant; he kindly declined.

Dan Wilson joins a long list of missing people that disappeared under very similar circumstances.



Dan Campbell

Missing: April 8, 1991, Hell Roaring Trailhead

Age at Disappearance: 42 years

Water* Weather* Canine One of the most unusual methods of making a living in Montana and Idaho is by antler collecting. Some of these people have canines that can smell out the items; others canvass the

ground as they hike through the mountains. The victim, in this case, was collecting antlers on the fringe of Yellowstone National Park. I say the “fringe” because it is illegal to collect anything from inside a national park, except memories and photos. Some people were under the belief that Dan was going into the park for this exact task.

In April of 1991, Dan Campbell was a logger in Big Timber. He enjoyed the outdoors and the forests and always traveled with his dog. On April 4, 1991, a female friend dropped Dan and his dog, named “Freckles” at the Hell Roaring Trailhead on Yellowstone National Park’s fringe. This July 1,1991, article in the Billings Gazette lays out this disappearance, “Campbell, 42 of Big Timber, was reported missing April 8, four days after a female acquaintance claims to have driven him and his Australian Shepherd to a trailhead at Hell Roaring Creek, to collect elk antlers for profit. During that time, heavy snowstorms hit the area.” When Dan didn’t make the agreed-upon pickup time, the Sweet Grass County Sheri was notified.

Searchers were notified that Dan had planned for the four day trip into the wilderness. They were also advised that he had extensive wilderness survival experience and could probably live through brutal weather. This April 16, 1991, article in the Montana Standard explained what SAR was up against, “Heavy snow in Yellowstone National Park hampered the search Monday for a Montana man and his dog missing for a week in the rugged Yellowstone River Canyon.” Later in the same article was this, “While searchers were aided by a plane and helicopter on Sunday, a snowstorm kept the aircraft grounded on Monday.” The article went on to state that if Campbell had headed north in the woods, he’d be under 4-5 feet of snow.

The week-long search for Dan found nothing. It is possible that the logger was debilitated the first day he entered the wilderness, meaning he was injured for days before the search started. Searchers found no evidence that Dan was attacked by a bear or mountain lion. If Dan had been attacked, they would still find his backpack and equipment.

Rod and Billy Campbell are Dan’s brothers and were vocal in the media about the National Park Service e orts. This July 1, 1991, edition of the Billings Gazette had these fascinating insights, “More than two months after Dan Campbell disappeared in a Yellowstone National Park, his brothers say they’re not satisfied with investigations of the incident and that their brother may have been murdered.” In all of my research on this case, I must admit that this was the only claim I read that a crime had happened. The National Park Service doesn’t

believe there was any criminality with Dan; they still have him listed as missing. The brothers told the press that Dan was collecting Elk antlers to finance a move to White Sulphur Springs.

Dan's brothers pushed for law enforcement to require Dan's friends to take polygraph tests; law enforcement stated they interviewed the friends and were satisfied with their stories.

The park service did make a significant mistake that I can't quite understand how they did it. The circumstances of the NPS mistake are explained in the July 1, 1991 edition of the Billings Gazette, "Campbell's family members also were angered when they discovered that his name was inadvertently removed from a national computer listing. A State Justice Department o icial noticed the error and took steps to place Campbell's name back on the list." The list they refer to is the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) maintained by the FBI. You need to log into the system to input or edit anything. No changes can be made in the system without knowing who exactly is inputting the data. If there was a mistake made, who did it, the FBI knows. We are approaching thirty years from the last date that anyone saw Dan Campbell. There were some rumors at the time that Dan may have wanted to drop out of society and get away from bad friends. Since he was reported missing, there have been no new leads to point to what happened to Dan. Dan's photo and a summary of his case are still on the National Park Service's cold case file website link.

I have no doubt that Billy and Rod Campbell miss their brother immensely and are still frustrated over their perceived lack of e ort by law enforcement on this case.

Jeremy Moors

Missing: July 28, 1995, Silver Lake, Sweetgrass County

Age at Disappearance: 24 years

Religion« Water« Granite« Boulders« Canines« Weather

It continually ba les me the type of people I have been forced to research who has disappeared. The innate personal qualities these individuals possess is stunning. I shed several tears over this case.

Jeremy Moors graduated from Burnsville High School in Minnesota and studied at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. He enjoyed music and played drums in a band with his brother. His number one focus in life was his religious studies. He was a sta member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minnesota, since 1991 and had been the Youth Director for the last two years. The church leadership recognized Jeremy's leadership qualities and recommended him to do a summer stint at Christikon, a Lutheran Summer Bible Camp as a camp counselor. The facility is located on the Boulder River in southern Montana. Jeremy loved the outdoors and jumped at the opportunity to spend the summer of 1995 at the church camp.

Jeremy arrived in Montana at Christikon and immediately fell in love with the area. He had jam- packed days and had little time to get out into the environment by himself. The camp counselor had his family in Minnesota, but they had close ties to the Big Sky state. Judee Bentzen was Jeremy's mom and was born in Bozeman. Judee met her husband (Fred) in Helena, and Judee's mom still lived in Helena; the Montana ties were strong.

In mid-July, Jeremy was told by the camp administration that they were going to give him five days o because of his great work. He was advised that the vacation would start on July 25. The Minnesota native immediately started talking to other counselors and conferring with maps to determine where he wanted to go.

Jeremy Chose Silver Lake in the west Boulder Plateau area. He organized his pack, food, and tent and left in his vehicle the morning of July 25, 1995, for a solo backpacking trip. He told friends that he would be staying around Silver Lake and would be back in time for the start of his work shift in five days. An August 3, 1995, edition of the Star Tribune had these details, "Moors started out from Christikon, a Lutheran Bible Camp about 25 miles south of McLeod on July 25. He apparently drove 12 miles from Christikon to a trailhead, then

hiked about 10 1/2 miles to a site overlooking Silver Lake, said Sweetgrass County Sheri George Ames."

Jeremy never made his scheduled shift, and the Christikon administrators called his parents to see if he had checked in with them; he had not, and they then called the Sweet Grass County Sheri 's o ice.

Sheri George Ames led the e ort to locate Jeremy. Ames was told that Jeremy would be at Silver Lake. He organized a small team to hike into the lake region and determine what happened to the twenty-four-year-old.

The search and rescue team started their trek into Silver Lake on Saturday, September 30. The same Star Tribune article quoted above had these details about what was found at the lake, "They found his tent, sleeping bag and about half of his food at the Silver Lake campsite." Other articles stated that Jeremy's boots and a few clothing and his water bottle were not at the tent. If you work backward from Jeremy's first night, July 25, knowing he would be gone for 4-5 days and had stated he would be back for the weekend; If half of his food was gone, he must've have disappeared on July 27 or 28. The response by the Sweet Grass County Sheri was exceptional by any standard. The SAR team was on the scene the day after Jeremy's supposed arrival.

The SAR team searched the tent area and did not see anything disturbed by animals or humans. The group walked the perimeter of the lake and still found nothing. Sheri Ames made a call for mutual aid and received an overwhelming response from the United States Forest Service, and Stillwater and the Park County Sheri 's sent manpower and multiple canine teams. There were also two helicopters sent from the military for aerial support.

The e ort to locate Jeremy was not without issues, as is described in the August 3, 1995, edition of the Billings Gazette, “It’s been really cloudy up there, thunderstorms going to move in, Sheri Ames stated.” Rescuers were also fighting the fatigue associated with elevation. Jeremy’s campsite was found at 9600 feet with mountains near 12,000 feet in the area.

As the search and rescue were progressing, Jeremy’s parents made the trip to Montana from Minnesota. They were given significant support from Christikon and law enforcement. They stayed in the area for the entire ten days the search progressed. It was apparent that the multitude of resources was not developing leads and was quickly

running short on money. The parents were able to raise funds for additional helicopter search time. After almost two weeks of searching for Jeremy, SAR coordinators had to terminate the effort without finding a trace of the young man's.

I have spoken to many families that had to leave the area of a search for a loved one. Each family states that driving away from the search area for the last time is a devastating moment. This August 9, 1995, edition of the Billings Gazette had these statements from Jeremy's family, "It's been a nightmare. It's been very, very difficult," Fred Moors said Tuesday after returning home Monday night from Montana. "Fortunately, he was a young man with a lot of faith, well-grounded." Moors continued. "If he hasn't made it, we know he is with the Lord. We take comfort in that, but small comfort in that right now. We miss him." I read those sentiments from Mr. Moors and lost it. I cannot fathom what it would be like losing one of my kids; it's beyond my comprehension. The pain Jeremy's family has endured is horrific.

Case Summary

The area where Jeremy set his camp was gorgeous. The place had a view of Silver Lake and the valley, stunning. The lake's region has occasional Grizzly bear and a rare mountain lion, but they are not the norm. SAR teams found no evidence of an animal attack or predation around his campsite. Searchers brought in multiple canine teams; none could pick up Jeremy's scent trail.

It would appear that Jeremy set his camp at the lake and took a day hike. He didn't take his backpack or food, just his water bottle. Is it possible that he tripped, broke his leg, and was stuck in a boulder field, sure? Remember, the area was swarming with searchers for ten days, throughout that valley and others in the region. They were all calling the counselors name and never heard a response. SAR even had helicopters hover over the lakes in the area to determine if there was a body in the water, nothing. There are dozens of small lakes in this region of the mountains. This is a high altitude area with huge boulders and lots of granite. It has now been twenty-five years since Jeremy Moors vanished, and nobody has found anything related to him. This area is above timberline, no trees, no bushes, nothing but boulders and water.

I get asked at conferences if people with a firm religious conviction ever disappear, the answer is a resounding yes. Jeremy lived a life with religion as his support post. He spread the word of his Lord

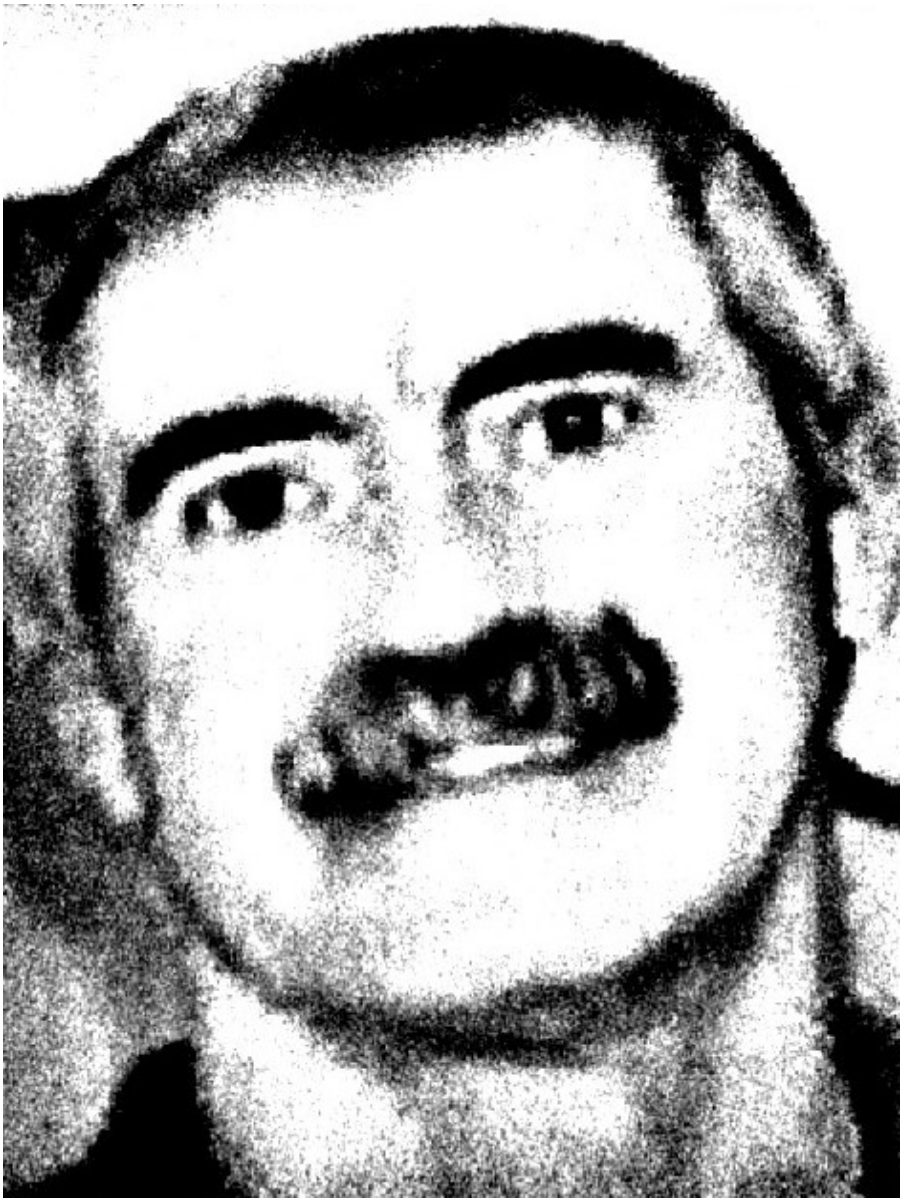
throughout his life in Minnesota and as a summer camp counselor at Christikon. He was the kind of young man that anyone would be proud to call their son.

Rest in Peace, Jeremy.

Patrick Whalen

Missing: November 2, 2000, Atlantic Creek Back- country Campground, Glacier National Park Age at disappearance: 33 years

**Refer to the “Glacier National Park Cluster” Chapter for details.



Allen Theis

Missing: November 23, 2003, McClelland-Sta ord Ferry, Fergus County

Age at Disappearance: 52 years

German* Water* Canines* Weather It’s fair to say that you won’t know where you’ll be exactly a year from now. Will that location

entice you back and cause you to take a vacation there or even maybe change residences? This is one of those stories that brought a man to a city that he liked so much; he ended up disappearing there a year later.

Allen Theis was a fifty-one-year-old, nine-year employee for Geocomm of St. Cloud, Minnesota. He was a longtime resident of Eden Valley, Minnesota, who loved the outdoors. Allen's longtime boss at Geocomm described him well in this December 3, 2003 edition of the Great Falls Tribune, "Geocomm President Tom Grones described Theis as an "individualist" who spends much of his time- both at work and at play-behind the wheel of a four-wheel drive. Let's just say he doesn't spend his vacation sitting around the pool drinking drinks with little umbrellas in them", Grones said. "He knows his way around." "Theis has been employed by Geocomm for ten years and had a good reputation Grones said. He's an extremely responsible person. That's why I think we're pretty concerned."

Tom Grones had a high opinion of Allen Theis and had him sent in 2002 to Montana, on an assignment for Geocomm. His job was to spend time in Polson and Havre collecting satellite data for 9-1-1 systems in those communities. While Allen was o duty, he talked to locals about deer hunting and scouted the various hunting areas. He decided on his trip back to Minnesota to spend a month-long hunting season in the region around Lewistown.

In November 2003, Allen told his mother, Adella, that he would travel to Lewistown for at least a week hunting. If he got his deer, he'd be back sooner, but he'd be back no later than November 30.

Super 8 Motel, Lewistown

Allen drove his black Ford Ranger truck from Eden Valley and arrived at the Super 8 Motel in Lewistown on November 22. He rented the room for two nights. He took his rifle and hunting gear and left early on the morning of November 23. The motel had Allen checking out November 24, but nobody was there, and much of his personal belongings were still in the room. The motel waited until November 26 and then called authorities. The motel contacted the Lewistown City Police and notified o icers that Allen had not paid for his room, and he may be missing in the woods.

Lewistown Police were not positive where Allen was hunting, so they hired an airplane and on December 2 put an o icer as an observer and went to the skies looking for the Ford truck. The plane eventually located the vehicle near the McClelland-Sta ord Ferry on the Missouri River. Fergus County deputies were sent to check on the vehicle's condition and found it operable with no apparent damage.

Sheri Tom Killham of the Fergus County Sheri 's O ice took charge of the search for Allen. This December 4, 2003, article in the Great Falls Tribune had details about the investigation, "Two teams of search dogs from Red Lodge and Fishtail and two airplanes from the Civil Air Patrol joined searchers on the ground. Volunteers with four-wheelers from Winifred are expected to join the e ort today." The sheri made statements that all e orts are focused on a half-day hike from Theis's truck.

The SAR for Allen went hard for several days. Authorities knew they were at least a week behind the date that Allen left his truck and walked into the wilderness. This December 9,2003, edition of the Great Falls Tribune had these details about the SAR, "Fergus County Sheri Tom Killham said bad weather and the extremely rugged terrain of the area prompted his o ice to suspend the search for the fifty-two-year-old Allen Theis of Eden Valley, Minnesota. Heavy snow and gumbo had made the area too treacherous to continue the search, for now, he said. "I'm just not going ask people to go down into that," he said Monday. Killham said smaller searches might resume once conditions improve, and o icials still planned occasional flyovers to see if they can locate Theis."

The disappearance of Allen Theis wasn't forgotten ten years after it happened. A local Minnesota media source (KXLH) ran an article on

November 22, 2012, about the case and interviewed Sheri Killham about Allen, “He was an amateur archaeologist, amateur anthropologist, liked animals and rocks and stu . And there is probably not a better place to do that plus do a little hunting.” Later in the article, Killham added the following, “The big problem with that particular area as far as I am concerned is that it is probably some of the roughest, nastiest breaks that we got in Fergus County. And some sinkholes are deep.” Many articles that covered the years after the initial disappearance noted that there were many searches in the months following the call from the Super 8.

Case Summary

It seems that every search and rescue I write about from every state or province in North America, SAR leaders like to say that their area is the most challenging, roughest area to search, right. I’ve hiked in the mountains in almost every state. I can guarantee that one specific item makes hiking exhausting, high elevation. Until you have hiked above twelve thousand feet, you can’t appreciate how di icult it is to move every foot if you have not trained for it. Fergus county did not have elevation issues, but it is rural, it does get mucky and freezing.

The sheri ’s statement about sinkholes is a distraction and not something to be taken seriously. The Fergus County Sheri sent multiple canine teams from several groups into Allen’s hunting area; none picked up a scent. If Allen had walked into a sinkhole and disappeared, the canine would track right to that spot and stop; this didn’t happen. Allen was a very experienced outdoorsman who was multi-dimensional. He enjoyed anthropology and archaeology and hunting. He was someone that would’ve been very aware of his surroundings, and if he had seen something that intrigued him, he would’ve investigated. Is this what happened? Did Allen wander into something that took his life?

Searchers knew that Allen had planned on spending each night at the Super 8 Motel. From the fact he wasn’t sleeping in the outdoors, they knew he’d never hike outwards more than he could travel on foot in a half-day; there are several reasons for this. If a hunter shoots an animal, he has to field dress and carry it back to their vehicle. You don’t want to get caught with several exhaustive trips back and forth to your truck lugging deer quarters, especially during the hours of darkness. It’s fair to say that Allen was no more than a five-six hour hike from his truck. Lastly, no hunter on Earth hikes a straight line in the wilderness; they all meander on game trails, ridgelines, etc. The location to search would be a radius circle from the truck-based on his

ability to hike.

I think it's quite a coincidence that German citizen Dietmar Munhofen was vacationing in the United States and his rental car was found abandoned (6/6/13) a short distance from Allen's truck. Please refer to Dietmar's story later in this book.

I have documented in my books that I have found five physicists that have disappeared; all were German. I could not locate a physicist that vanished that was not Gennan. Two of these individuals were German citizens vacationing in the United States (just like Dietmar) that disappeared while here. One of the physicists was working for a large German Corporation; the other was a university professor.

I am shocked that seventeen years after Allen vanished, not a hunter or hiker has found a shred of evidence of where Allen went; it's odd.

Allen Theis has never been found.

Robert "Bugsy" Springfield

Missing: September 19, 2004, Bighorn Mountains Age at Disappearance: 49 years

Unknown Cause of Death* Missing Clothing* Bow Hunter* Canines* Previously Searched

The Crow Indian Reservation is located in Montana's southeastern section in the Bighorn Mountains, a region that is very rugged and steep and a great place for big game hunting.

On September 19, 2004, Robert Springfield and his son Colton (13 years) and their adopted son, Brent Brooks, went to Black Canyon to hunt elk. Robert was wearing heavy winter clothing and was not carrying a firearm but was armed with a bow and arrow. The two kids were assisting Robert by attempting to herd the elk down the valley.

Robert was unemployed in 2004 because of an injury sustained on an oil well. The Springfield's were living in Casper, Wyoming, and made the trip to the Bighorns specifically for elk hunting. Robert and his family were members of the Crow Nation Indian Reservation, and they were hunting on ground owned by the tribe.

Late in the afternoon on September 19, after hunting, Robert did not come back to the prearranged spot where he had agreed to meet his two sons. The kids waited until after dark and still had not found their

dad. The boys immediately notified authorities, and a search began. The Bighorn County Sheri and members of the tribe searched the area around where Robert was thought to be, nothing was found. A helicopter with an FLIR was brought into the valley and did low flyovers to locate Robert. The area the hunter disappeared had many steep canyons with dense foliage and many caves; Robert was not found. The family made several trips to the site and searched by themselves and still could not locate Robert. The BIA and county sheri 's also brought in canines and searchers on horseback, nothing was found.

In October 2005, a hunter was in the Black Canyon area and heard a crow screeching. The bird was loud and was incessantly screeching even in the presence of the hunter. The hunter walked towards the tree where the crow was sitting, and below the tree laid human remains.

The hunter led authorities to the scene and later told news teams that he found a partial skull, a femur, and a neatly rolled-up men's belt next to the skull. There were also two men's boots neatly sitting next to the skull and femur. A men's coat on the ground had a small tear in the back, and a wallet was found at the scene that did contain money. The only items that were missing were Robert's bow and arrow.

The Bighorn County Sheri and the BIA were brought to the body parts scene and decided that the FBI should be summoned. The FBI did respond to the location of the body parts and did take possession of the evidence. The remains were sent to the FBI identification section in Quantico, Virginia.

Veronica Springfield (wife) was told conflicting information about the cause of the death of her husband. She states that she was initially told that he could've been shot, that was later recanted, and she was told that a tree might have fallen on him.

Veronica also stated that her husband's body parts were found directly above the campsite, where much of the search e orts were centered. She said she couldn't believe that the body parts were there when the search was being conducted because she believes that searchers and canines would have found her husband.

Two years after Roberts's body parts were recovered, the FBI still retained the remains. The FBI stated that they had to put Robert's DNA in a federal database and that they were backlogged and couldn't ship the body parts until it was completed. The family later filed a

federal lawsuit against the FBI. On March 3, 2009, the Tulsa Native American Times ran an article about Springfield's plight and their e orts to get Robert's body home. The article states the following about the lawsuit filed by the Springfield's:

"The complaint also alleges Springfield died under suspicious circumstances and that the FBI failed to investigate his disappearance. After the body was found, the FBI failed to investigate to positively identify the remains in a timely manner even though there was compelling evidence for the identification, the complaint said."

Case Summary

I'm pleased that someone somewhere realized that Robert's death was suspicious and unusual and should have been investigated.

Robert's case is another in a long line described in my books with a very unusual conclusion. Only a partial skull and femur are found, where are the rest of his bones? His belt is found "neatly" rolled up next to the bones; who did that? His boots are stacked neatly next to the bones; who placed them there? How did Robert get the tear in the back of his jacket? Where are his bow and arrows? If someone did come along and see a bow and arrow lying next to bones, maybe they would steal the weapon, but you'd think that someone would also call authorities and allow the family to recover the remains. If someone were going to steal the bow and arrow, you'd think they would empty his wallet of cash, which they didn't.

This is also one of many cases where the remains are found in an area that had been previously searched. The remains are located so close to the SAR command post that the family believes they would've found the body. One law enforcement source stated Robert might have died because a tree fell on him; then, who rolled his belt and stacked his shoes?

A continuing theme regarding many of the bodies recovered across North America documented in this book is an absence of large bones that cannot be easily explained.

I've asked several law enforcement friends why they felt that the FBI kept Robert's body for two years; nobody has given me a compelling reason. The BIA and Bighorn County Sheri 's felt something very unusual happened to Robert, thus calling for FBI assistance. The reality of what happened to Robert Springfield will probably never be known.

Barbara Bolick

Missing: July 18,2007- 1 p.m., Bear Creek Overlook, west of Victor

Age at Disappearance: 55 years

Canines* Granite* Point of Separation This case has always intrigued me. There are many facets of this incident that match other circumstances of cases I have documented. The suddenness of the

disappearance isn't as uncommon as many may believe.

In July of2007, Barbara and Carl Bolick had been married for fourteen years and lived in the Bitterroot Valley. Carl had recently retired after a seventeen year career with JP Morgan in their security division. Barbara stayed in shape by running, jogging, hiking trails, and continually walking their dog. One trail that she loved to take visitors was the Bear Creek Overlook in the mountains west of Victor.

On July 17,2007, the Bolick's were hosting Carl's cousin, Donna Biles, and her friend Jim Ramaker. They had talked about Barbara taking the couple to the overlook the next morning, and plans were made. The following morning came with Donna not feeling well, and Ramaker saying that he'd go with Barbara. Carl was still in bed when Barbara went into the room and explained that she and Jim were going to the overlook.

Jim told authorities that he had no concerns with Barbara being with Jim. As the morning went to the afternoon, Donna started to get concerned and then angry that she had not heard from her boyfriend.

At about 1:30 p.m., Carl stated he got a call from a United States Forest Service Police o icer telling him that his wife was missing; Jim didn't believe it. He noted that his wife had made that hike many times and knew the area quite well. He also knew that Barbara carried a pistol in her backpack should she encounter a bear or mountain lion. Jim emphasized his wife was fit, smart, and educated about the area.

The location of the incident is in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. The overlook is just a few miles from the Idaho border. Once you enter Idaho near the trail, there is nothing but thick forests and granite mountains for dozens and dozens of miles. This is truly an unspoiled wild wilderness.

Once Jim digested what he had just heard, he drove to the trailhead and saw an unusual scene. On a typical trip, you could drive directly to the trailhead, not today. There was viaduct work being done on the road, and it was blocked. People had to park further down the roadway and walk to the trailhead and the o icers on the scene. This July 24, 2007. article in the Ravalli Republic has Carl Bolick telling what Jim Ramaker explained what happened, "There was maybe 20 feet separating them, Carl Bolick said. They were on the summit, going down, and she was 20 feet diagonally from him. He was to the right: he wanted to get a different view of the Bear Creek drainage. He said it was not more than 40 seconds that they were separated, and he

heard nothing, Bolick said." Ramaker stated that he never saw Barbara after that short 40 seconds. Nothing was heard, and nothing was felt; she simply was gone. Also in this same article was this statement from Carl, "As best as anybody can tell there is no indication of any animal-no bear or mountain lion-no sign of a struggle, no indication of foul play, no sign she became incapacitated o the side of the trail for a medical cause or abduction, he said. It is just incredible; there seems no explanation at this point. Further, he said, Barbara is healthy with no medical problems, no medication, very upbeat, very athletic, and in very good shape. She regularly hiked that trail, both on her own and with friends and visitors, and is an experienced hiker who stays on the trail and does not bushwhack away from it."

Once Carl arrived at the scene, he stated that it wasn't long before the Ravalli County Sheri s' deputies arrived and formulated a search plan. Deputies did go to the location immediately and did a cursory look for Barbara. Once it was apparent that Mrs. Bolick wasn't going to be found quickly, a comprehensive plan was developed. Here are the resources that were deployed as part of the search e ort and were presented in the July 24,2007, edition of the Ravalli Republic, "Searchers from the National Guard and Homeland Security, and personnel from Missoula County Search and Rescue, Ravalli County Search and Rescue, and Forest Service Law enforcement, in addition to people from the Ravalli County Sheri 's o ice. Search teams used infrared devices and dogs in the search. Also helping in the search were many of the Bolick's neighbors and friends." Articles stated there was a significant search e ort for the first forty-eight hours, and it slowly decreased.

It's apparent from the articles and news segments that the sheri was getting frustrated that they were quickly running out of areas to search, and canines were not finding a scent trail. The sheri was asked about the only person with Barbara, Jim Ramaker. Sheri Chris Ho man has stated that Jim had been questioned multiple times, o ered to take a polygraph test, and has consistently been there to answer questions and be of assistance. The sheri did not consider Ramaker a suspect.

Several years ago, I worked on accumulating information on this incident when I realized that Jim Ramaker lived in California when I was living in San Jose. One morning I called Jim, explained that I was writing a story about the incident, and asked if he'd speak with me; he said sure. Jim was very pleasant and answered every question. I was mainly interested in that time period when he turned away from her, and she vanished. Ramaker was consistent in the explanation that it was less than a minute, and she was gone. He said there were no

sounds, felt nothing, just gone.

I asked him if there were others on the mountain with the pair. He stated that there were two men they had seen, and he gave this information to the sheri , that was true. I asked Jim if he had an explanation on how she could disappear so quickly, he said he couldn't. I explained to Jim that I appreciated the time he spent with me on the phone.

Years after the disappearance, Sheri Chris Ho man made the following statement in the January 23- January 30,2014. edition of the Missoula Independent, "Ho man, who served in law enforcement for 30 years and is finishing his third four-year term as sheri , says that the strange circumstances surrounding Barbara's disappearance make the case stand out. It's something that I don't think we get a week without thinking about it. We don't like mysteries; we like cold facts."

Case Summary

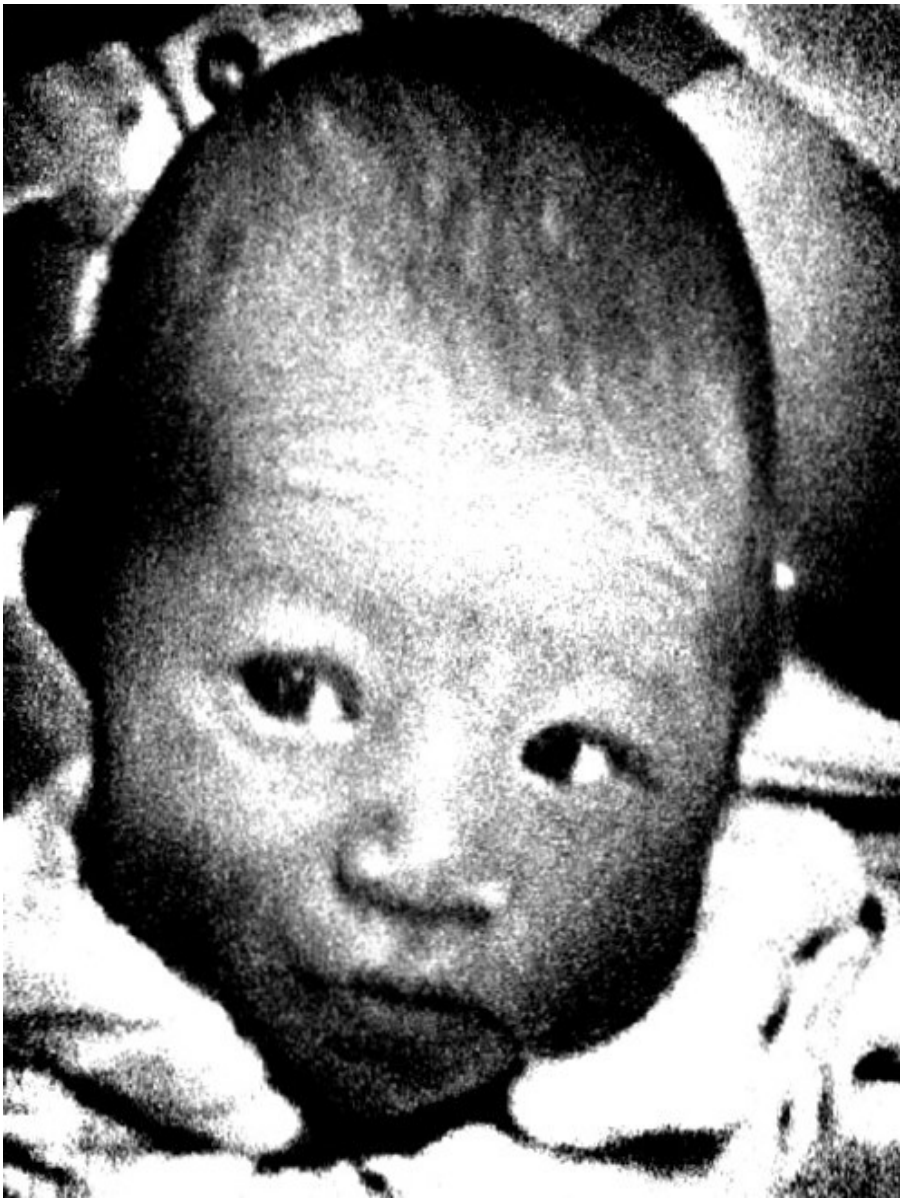
The most confusing part of this case is the immediate nature that Barbara vanished. I've heard many people comment and make a disparaging statement about Jim Ramaker. Just like the sheri stated, I don't consider that Ramaker played any role in Barbara disappearing. I actually think Jim is a victim in this incident. He has to live with the knowledge that he was the last person to see Barbara Bolick alive.

I have written dozens of stories where the people surrounding the missing person state that the victim was right here, then suddenly missing. Each time witnesses, family, parents say that they just turned their back momentarily, and they turned back, and they were gone, almost precisely how Jim explained. I know that first-time readers will have di iculty absorbing what I am stating and believing anything can happen that quickly. Until you read the exact words used by witnesses on multiple incidents, it is hard to believe. The fact that the disappearance happened on the edge of one of the wildest, largest, and most boulder ridden areas of the western United States only adds intrigue and mystery. Idaho is near the top of my list for the number of missing people who have never been found.

I know that Ravalli County did a highly comprehensive search of the area surrounding the Bear Creek Overlook. I do not doubt that Barbara wasn't there, and the thirteen years since she disappeared and nothing has been found go towards proving that point. I don't believe there is any evidence to show that Barbara was suicidal. I don't think that she could have been abducted in a human to human kidnapping

without Jim hearing a scream, gravel moving, or some other signs of a struggle.

The key to this case is one thing, point of separation. In that forty seconds to one minute where Jim Ramaker didn't have eyes on Barbara, something happened, something fatal.



Wyatt Cole Little Light

Missing: December 23, 2008, Fort Smith

Age at Disappearance: 1 month 1’7”, 15 lbs I think it’s an unusual coincidence that the disappearance of Robert Springfield happened close to Wyatt Little Light. These two disappearances occurred very close to each other, see map.

Wyatt and his two parents were in an area approximately 2 miles from Fort Smith, Montana. Wyatt's father was very familiar with the site they were visiting, as it was one of his hunting grounds. In early January 2008, the family's grandmother passed away, and it was observed that the Little Light family did not attend. Family members knew that something was wrong, and they notified law enforcement that Teddy, Juliet, and Wyatt were missing.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs o icers was alerted by family members of possible locations to search for the Little Light family. Agents found the family's 1996 Chevrolet pickup six miles up Grapevine Road near the Highway outside of Fort Smith. There was snow on the ground when the truck was found, but o icers did search the area and found nothing of value.

In May 2009, authorities went back to the area where they found the Little Light's vehicle. Approximately 2 miles from the truck along a ridgeline, law enforcement found Teddy and Juliet Little Light's scattered remains. There were just fragmented bones with clothing from a man and woman. Authorities combed the area and never located the remains of Wyatt. There were children's clothing in the area but still didn't find any of Wyatt's remains.

The possibilities of finding the parents and not Wyatt are almost endless. There is the possibility that animals completely consumed Wyatt in the area, but I doubt that bears are not hibernating in this area in December. If Wyatt were consumed, his clothing would be ripped to shreds and covered with blood and tissue; this wasn't the case. The answer as to what happened to Wyatt Cole Little Light may never be known.

There is a consistent oddity in many cases in my book, victims are found on ridges. I don't believe that this is a typical location where people would succumb to the elements. I think that most people would seek shelter and perish from the elements, not standing out on a wind-ridden ridge.

What happened to Wyatt and his parents will never be known.

Dietmar Johann Munho en

Date Missing: June 6, 2013, Fergus County

Age at Disappearance: 58 years

German

This is a very odd case for a multitude of reasons. There is very little information about the case other than what you will read here.

Dietmar Johann Munho en was a German citizen that traveled to the United States for a vacation. He was last seen in Great Falls on June 6, 2013. There is nothing to indicate where Munhofen went from June 6

until July 5 when his rental car was found in a remote location of Fergus County.

Fergus County is located in the north-central part of the state at the Missouri Breaks' southern end. The county seat is Lewistown, which is often confused with Lewiston, Idaho. The Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument is also in the Northeastern portion of Fergus County and is a property managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Munho en's vehicle was found in this area.

This area of Montana is a location that you don't casually find. Northeast Fergus county is remote and not visited with numbers of Glacier National Park. There was never any information distributed about why Dietmar visited this area, exactly where he might be, or the length of his proposed vacation. I find it highly coincidental that another German (also not from Montana) disappeared not far from Munho en, Allen Theis.

Dietmar Munho en has never been found.

George Alex Baumann

Missing: August 26, 2014, Ambrose Saddle, Stevensville

Age at Disappearance: 56 years

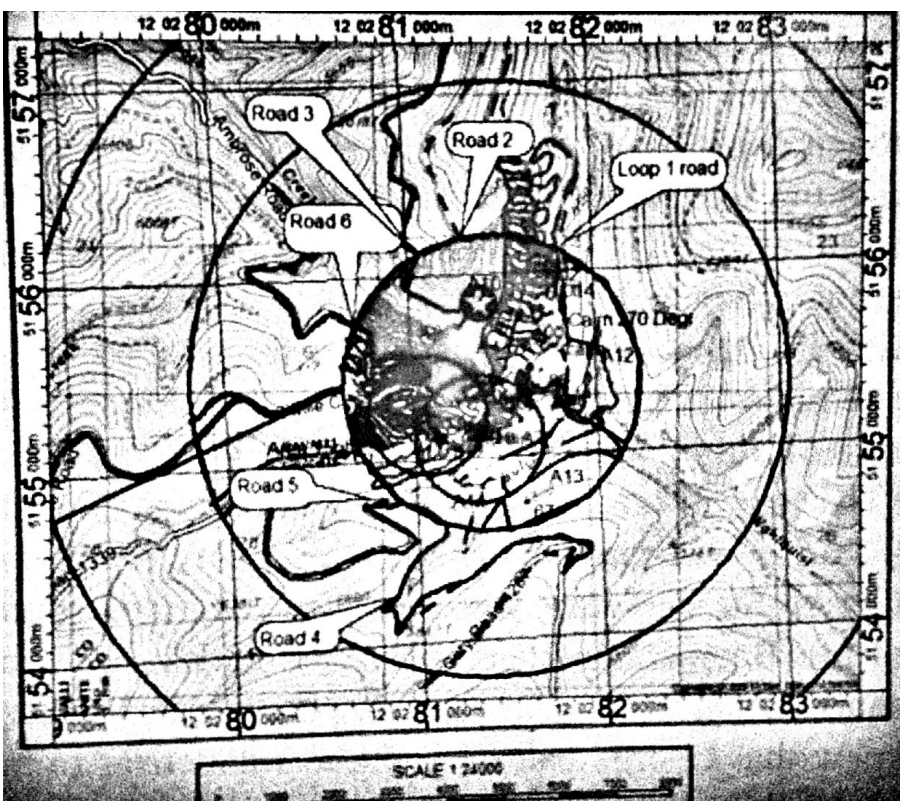
Canines* Disabled* Unknown Cause of Death* German

If there was one story in the last several years that caused people to call from Montana, this is it. It seemed that George Baumann had many friends concerned for his health, and they didn't like the information coming out of the search e ort. The concerns by others prompted them to email me about peculiarities associated with the search for George.

George Alex Baumann was born in South Dakota and later in life moved to Salt Lake City. He worked with his dad at Baumann Construction and learned the trades through his father. In 2006 George su ered a debilitating head injury that haunted his for the remainder of him life. He was able to maintain odd jobs as a handyman, cutting firewood, etc.

On August 26,2014, George told his friend, Albert, that he was driving at 10:30 a.m. to Ambrose Saddle east of Stevensville to cut firewood. Baumann told his friend that he'd be back that night. When George never made it back, Albert called the Ravalli Sheri 's O ice on August

Ravalli County Sheri Chris Ho man gathered together multiple resources to scour the saddle area looking for George. SAR did find his truck quickly and then brought in multiple dog teams to track his scent. A September 2,2014, article at KGVO.com article had these details, “All told, the amount of mileage the dog teams put on was roughly 90 miles inside of a three-quarter-mile square,” Ho man said. “That search extended out nearly two miles into all the drive-able roads in that area, it’s quite a road system up there. Again, we didn’t find any indication of Mr. Baumann’s whereabouts.” I think it was the sheri ’s last statement that set people o . Friends knew that George wasn’t going to wander far from his truck as he was injured, and he was a large man (6’4”) and not in the best of shape. There were at least 4-5 di erent dog teams that could not pick up George’s scent, a very unusual outcome. The lack of smell, coupled with a helicopter not finding George from the air, had many residents highly confused. George would be a big target from a plane or helicopter. After several days of searching, the sheri suspended the e ort and tried to understand why they were not successful. Nothing about this event until this point was making sense.



Ravalli County Search Map for George Baumann

Eighteen days after George disappeared, the Ravalli county sheri sent canines back into the field. On this search, the dogs were going far outside standard search criteria. They knew that Baumann wasn't inside the primary zone where most people would be located. The September 17, 2014, edition of the Bitterroot Star had details about what was found, "According to Ravalli County Sheri /Coroner Chris Ho man, elements of True North Search Dogs, Ravalli County Search and Rescue and Ravalli County Sheri 's Deputies located and recovered the body of George Alex Baumann on Saturday, September 13. Ho man said that Baumann, the 56-year-old Stevensville man missing since August 26th, was found in heavily timbered, steep terrain in the Ambrose Creek area of Granite County, east of Stevensville."

The initial response to this recovery was closure for the family and friends. It would help if you looked a lot deeper to understand the complexity of where George was found. He was far outside the search zone and located in another county. He was somewhat disabled and wasn't going to hike steep hills to find firewood that is virtually everywhere in this part of the state. The exact location of the body was in Ambrose Creek on a steep hillside in Granite County. None of the articles stated why George died, if he was missing clothes, etc. I called the Ravalli County Undersheri Steve Holton. The undersheri was very polite and o ered to answer any of my questions. He said that it was odd that the state crime lab had not determined a cause of death. He also admitted that it was unusual for the canines not to pick up George's scent when they first arrived. He said that the body was located quite a distance from his vehicle and couldn't explain how that happened. The last question I asked was if the body was fully clothed, it was.

Why didn't the canines that initially arrived on the search pick up George's scent? Why would George hike an extreme distance uphill when none of his friends believed he'd do that? Why couldn't coroners determine the cause of death?

RIP George Alex Baumann.

Aaron Joseph Hedges

Missing: September 7, 2014, Crazy Mountains

Age at Disappearance: 38 years

Bow Hunter* Weather* Missing Clothing* Canines* Unknown Cause of Death* Granite

This is one story that you will not forget. It is a story that took me several weeks to wrap my mind around. When I initially researched it, I thought maybe there was some unusual foul play at work. After I slept on it for several nights, conducted more research, traveled to Montana, saw the topography, and understood the evidence's distances, I was dumbfounded.

In Missing 411: The Devil's in the Detail, I supply two charts that are a cumulative set of data on two relevant facts. One table deals with distances that people travel. In the four books I had written about missing people, there were extreme examples of people's phenomenal distances allegedly traveled. In one instance, facts show that a twenty-two-month-old girl went fifteen miles in three days. A report of the disappearance of a three-year-old boy stated that he traveled fifteen

miles in thirty hours. The list is extensive. I placed it there to show that the distances from point to point were correct and validated by law enforcement or search-and- rescue. The reality is that these people went missing in wilderness areas, and any parent knows that a child of these ages can't travel those distances in the time frames reported. I have no idea how the people went those distances, and I do not claim what may have happened. In the story you are about to read, again, distances come into play.

As you read about hunting cases, you will start to see that bowhunters have a high mortality rate and have the highest rate of not being found. If they are found, the stories are almost beyond understanding. This story is about a bowhunter.

This case's location is ten miles north of Big Timber, Montana, in the Crazy Mountains. Yes, the name of the range is the Crazy Mountains. I've discussed in past books that people disappear in areas with strange names. Many people have vanished in regions with "devil" in the title, weird.

In early September 2014, three men took the Cottonwood Lake trailhead and went into the Crazy Mountains for elk hunting and eventually put their camp near Campfire Lake. Two of the men were hunting with rifles, and one man was hunting with a bow—Aaron Joseph Hedges. The trail starts on the west side of the mountain range in heavy timber. The Crazy Mountains have a split law enforcement jurisdiction, and this trail started in Park County.

It was during the trip into the Crazy's that the hunting group had their first major disaster. They had two horses and one mule to carry their supplies and were crossing one of the high passes when for some reason, the mule (carrying Hedges supplies) spooked. It took o , and Aaron lost some of his supplies. It took hours to gather up essential items that fell and to re-organize the packs.

The three hunters were carrying radios for communication. On September 7, 2014, Aaron said he would get supplies cached at another lake and split o from his friends. In the late afternoon, he radioed his buddies and stated that he'd missed the trail back to their location and would instead go on to Sunlight Lake. Aaron knew the site because they had hunted it last year and kept a stash of supplies in the mountains surrounding the lake. He knew a sleeping bag and other items were there, which he needed. He was going to grab those items and be back later in the evening. The friends didn't think much of it and said that they'd see him that night. He never arrived. Hedges

was an extremely experienced hunter and had been in this area many times; nobody was concerned at this point.

The following day (Monday), Aaron still hadn't made it back to the camp. His friends didn't have a significant concern for his safety because they knew he had supplies, was very experienced, and was heavily armed. They went elk hunting and thought they'd see him that night. They did kill an elk and brought it back to camp. When Aaron didn't arrive on Monday night, the friends were concerned. This area of the mountains doesn't have much cell reception and is miles from the nearest phone and a day ride back to their vehicles. They did attempt to raise Aaron on his radio, and there was no response. The weather at this point was pleasant, in the high forties and low fifties.

The friends looked for Aaron throughout the day and Tuesday night. They could not locate their friend and decided they needed to summon assistance. On Wednesday, the hunters made it out of the mountains and called Aaron's wife and reported him as missing. She, in turn, called the sheri , who began to formulate search-and-rescue plans.

I can tell you that the delay in notifying law enforcement of the disappearance did concern some people, and the press printed it. The sheri 's spokesman said that they believed that Aaron's friends searched for him and were diligent in that e ort. They did not think that they were involved in any foul play.

It's crucial at this point to understand the geographical significance of what happens. The men took the Cottonwood Lake trailhead, which is located on the Crazy Mountains western side near the southwest corner of the range. The west side of the mountains is in Park County. The eastern side of the range belongs to Sweet Grass County. Initial reports said that Aaron was lost in Park County, and they took charge of the search. Aaron lived in Sweet Grass County, and his wife contacted them first, and they referred the incident to Park County. Another delay to the start of the SAR mission added to the timing issues. Park County Sheri Scott Hamilton took the reins of the search. An October 3, 2015, article in the Montana Pioneer had this statement about what SAR was faced with: "By the time we were notified and were able to spin up, the weather had hit, Hamilton recalled. So, we're dealing with two feet of snow in the mountains. The continuing storm made air searching di icult for the first day or two- actually impossible." It's essential to understand the timeline. There was a three-day delay in the initial report of the disappearance, and then an additional two-day delay before the SAR mission even started. At this

point, Aaron had been missing for five days, and there wasn't an organized e ort in the field looking for him.

Sheri Hamilton pulled every string he could to locate the hunter. He looked at a map and realized there was a decent likelihood that Aaron was on the border with Sweet Grass County, and he requested their assistance. Park County SAR would come into the mountains from the west, and Sweet Grass would enter from the east. Approximately two days after the search started, a group worked Sweet Grass Creek, the creek that empties out of Sunlight Lake. A September 29, 2014, article in the Livingston Enterprise documented an exciting find: "About two weeks ago, search teams located evidence that has since been positively identified as gear belonging to Hedges. Rescue workers found a pair of boots, a Camelback bladder, a water filter, a fire spot, and a woodpile near a creek. 'Barefoot, you're not going to go very far, so I made a quarter-mile circle around where the boots were found and divided into three separate areas,' said Alan Ronneberg, the Sweet Grass County Search and Rescue Coordinator." The searchers said that a tube connected to the bladder had been removed and not torn o They believed that Aaron had used that to get water out of the creek.

I was extremely fortunate to spend two days with Sweet Grass County Sheri and SAR coordinator Alan Ronneberg. We sat in his o ice, put a map of the Crazy Mountains on the table, and Alan explained the strangeness of the case. He said that by the time his SAR personnel got into the mountains and found Aaron's shoes and supplies, there were two feet of snow on the ground. They located evidence that someone (probably Aaron) tried to start a fire and were dumbfounded when they discovered the hunter's boots. He stated that they didn't find any tracks leaving the area near Sweet Grass Creek, where the supplies were found, even though there was snow on the ground. There were also now tracks seen as the searchers hiked west up the trail to where the supplies were discovered. He reinforced that the area was rugged, lots of shale, a place where nobody would want to walk in bare feet. After being around Sheri Ronneberg a few hours, he stated another highly unusual fact about finding Aaron's supplies. He said his team was in that exact area, in the same spot two days earlier, and never saw the supplies. I asked him how that was possible; he said, "I don't know." There was a slight implication that maybe they weren't there when his SAR group had first arrived.

In past books, I have documented multiple incidents where victims removed their shoes. Sometimes the removal happened very quickly after they vanished, much too fast for hypothermia to be the

explanation. In a few instances, the victims also removed clothing, except they were too young to have ever taken their clothes o , and their parents demanded to know how it had happened. SAR's statement that Aaron could not have traveled far after removing his shoes was logical, but after reading my books, you will quickly find that logic doesn't come into play in these stories.

Remember that it had snowed two feet over the previous days. It was freezing. If a severe case of hypothermia had hit Aaron and he had removed his shoes and attempted to hike, it is rational to say that he wouldn't have gotten more than a few miles in the extremely rugged and dangerous landscape in the Crazy Mountains.

Sheri Hamilton had accumulated and dispatched an unbelievable set of resources to look for Aaron. Twenty dog teams never found his scent. Seven equestrian teams found nothing. Fifty-nine ground searchers did find his boots and water bladder. The National Guard and a private helicopter with night vision equipment and high-powered spotlights combed the mountains for days and found nothing. If Aaron were moving through any open areas, he'd look like a snowplow from the air walking through fresh snow. Nothing along the lines of tracks was ever found. Fifteen days after Aaron was last heard from, the formal search was terminated on September 22.

Nine months after Aaron vanished, there was a break in the case. Roger Beslanowitch was a butcher from Powell, Wyoming, who came to the Anchor Ranch in Sweet Grass County to work with his son- in-law. An October 3, 2015, article in the Montana Pioneer describes what happened: '"My son-in-law was going to fix some fence and it was steep, so I dropped him o at the top,' Beslanowitch recalled referring to the rancher Charlie Rein. Tt was going to take a while for him to get done fixing the fence, so I had some time to kill. He told me if I wanted to look at a beautiful view, to go on top of a ridge above, and I did.' After taking in the vista, Beslanowitch decided to take a short cut through a stand of timber. That's when he spotted an orange hunting vest, as well as a backpack and clothing." He initially feared "a bear got somebody...' My first thought when I saw clothes piled up against a tree, I just knew there was going to be a body there.'" He had found a bow, backpack, socks, shirt, and a vest. He didn't know what he had found, but he gathered it up and took it back to the ranch and called the sheri . It wasn't long before the items were identified as belonging to Aaron.

I met with Charlie Rein at his ranch, a beautiful location in the Crazy Mountains. Charlie and his wife explained in detail how Aaron's items

were located. Charlie did say that it was on a hillside in a position where you could see their home. He stated they found a thermos sitting on a rock, as though someone had been sitting and looking at their valley. The backpack and bow were propped up under a tree and were searched, and they knew immediately it was Aaron's. One item in the pack that was never in any publication, a pistol, a forty-four caliber Ruger Redhawk, loaded. Aaron could've fired o shots to alarm others of his position, something he never did. Charlie stated that the entire scenario that was unfolding didn't make any sense. The Sweet Grass County Sheri was again called. I was fortunate to get Sheri Ronneberg from Sweet Grass County to get into one of the helicop-ters used in the search to show me by air the path that Aaron might have taken. It is one of the most beautiful areas anyone can imagine. As we flew the Sweet Grass Creek area, we saw herds of elk and a pristine environment. The sheri reiterated the impossibility that Aaron could've traveled the path that his boots, bow, and backpack indicate. We landed the helicopter on a plot of land across from where the pack was located. You could easily see the Rein ranch house and Sweet Grass Creek from Aaron's last location. The sheri told me that when his men hiked in to recover the supplies, they searched the area extensively and found no additional evidence. One year after finding the supplies, a group of guests at a nearby dude ranch were on horseback and saw what they believed to be a human skull; they called the sheri . Aaron's remains were located not far from the bow. There wasn't much left other than scattered skeletal remains. I asked the sheri if they found socks, Ronneberg said, "No, we didn't find any feet." You read that correctly, no feet. When asked why his men didn't find the remains when they searched the area when they recovered the backpack, bow, and thermos, he stated he didn't have a good answer, but it didn't make sense.

Author with Sheri Alan Ronneberg discussing the location where Aaron Hedges was found

At this point, any concern about Aaron su ering hypothermia, and taking o his boots doesn't add up. He had clothing, lots of clothing that would've kept him warm. There was one huge issue. The same article I quoted earlier stated that for Aaron to get to the ranch location, he would've made a cross-country hike for six miles in the snow. He didn't have skis or snowshoes, and he would've been o the trail. Oh, don't forget: he had to have done this in bare feet.

The location where Aaron's bow and backpack were found was one mile from the ranch house. There had been an extensive search in the area where the items were found, and Aaron wasn't there. Searchers were entirely in disbelief. It was beyond comprehension how he could've made it from the creek to the location where his items were found without boots. Remember the first statement from the SAR worker; Aaron couldn't have gone far from the point he found the boots. I can only imagine what the searcher is thinking now.

I plotted the distance from the location where Aaron's boots were located next to Sweet Grass Creek and where his body was found on the Rein Ranch. Point to point; I have it at six air miles. Remember, nobody walks air miles in the mountains. In the Crazy Mountains, you could easily double that mileage.

There have been many articles written about this event, and all leave the reader mystified about what might have occurred.

Corporal Greg Todd is the head of Park County SAR for the sheri 's department and was asked what he thinks happened to Aaron; he called it a "million dollar mystery." I'll leave you with this last statement from Sheri Alan Ronneberg with the Sweet Grass County Sheri 's Department and documented in the October 3, 2015, article in the Montana Pioneer that addresses what might have happened: "'You think of it, and it's a theory,' Ronneberg said. 'Everything from he got turned around just o the trail, got caught in the storm and passed away from hypothermia, to he's in Mexico somewhere, to UFO's got him. There is a full list—a legal page—of theories out there.'" It wasn't long after this statement was made that Aaron's remains were located.

This is one of the stories we highlighted in our movie, Missing 411: The Hunted. I encourage you to watch it for the pure beauty

highlighted and covered from the air and ground.

Glacier National Park Cluster

The following two stories deal with disappearances that occurred at or on the perimeter of Glacier National Park, which is located at the far northwestern section of Montana adjacent to the Canadian border. The park is known for its outstanding beauty, remoteness, and grizzly bears.

There are a few interesting facts readers should know about the park:

· The park was established on May 11, 1910.

· It contains 131 named lakes.

· It contains 563 streams.

· The park consists of 1,012,837 acres.

· It boasts seventy-eight campgrounds.

· It contains six boat access points.

· There are 151 trails.

· Seventy- one di erent mammals call the park home.

· There are twenty-four fish species in the lakes and streams.

· The park is home to 276 di erent species of birds.

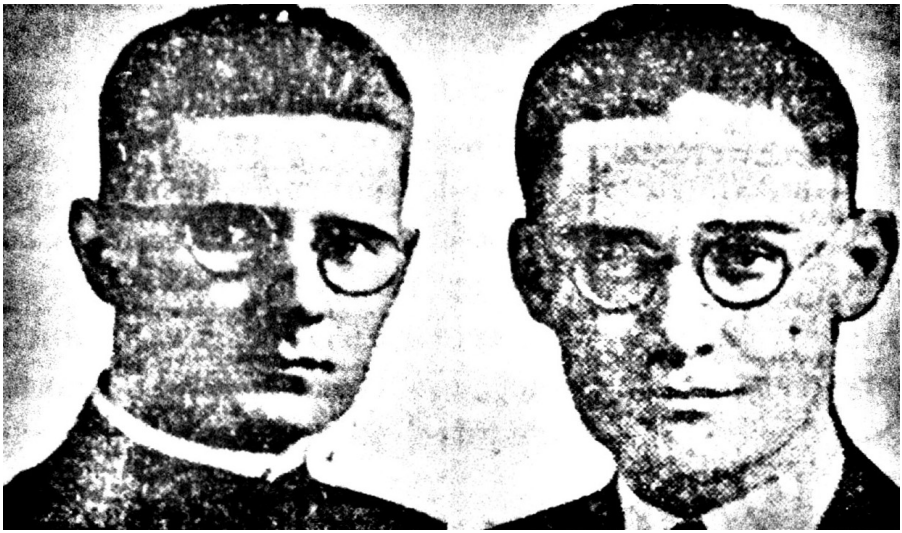
· It receives approximately two million visitors a year.

Joseph Whitehead, 29 years

William Whitehead, 22 years

Missing: August 25, 1924, Glacier National Park

Cluster Zone* No Tracks*



Joseph Whitehead (L), William Whitehead (R)

If anyone were going to pick two brilliant, young, and intelligent men to write about, it would be the Whiteheads. Joseph was a graduate of the Lewis Institute and a former Lieutenant in the Army Ordnance Division. At the time of his disappearance was an engineer for Universal Battery in Chicago. Joseph's brother, William Whitehead, was a 22-year-old student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and was set to graduate the following year.

The brothers left their mother's home in Chicago on August 21, 1924. As they traveled west across the United States, they wrote their mom daily about their adventures. The boys arrived at the Lewis Hotel inside Glacier National Park on August 24. The boys sent their mom a card from the hotel on the day they arrived; that was the last time Mrs. Dora Whitehead ever heard from her two sons.

Lewis Hotel, now named Lake McDonald Lodge

The Whiteheads had told friends that they would hike from the hotel to near the center of the park to an area known as Granite Park. The route the boys would've taken was adjacent to Lake McDonald, which is located near the hotel. When the pair didn't return, nobody knew they were missing. The time that the two were in the park was busy with tourists, and if someone were injured close to a trail, others would hear their cries for help; nobody reported anyone's cries for help.

The path to Granite Park was a long journey. They would pass Lake McDonald and would have to cross the continental divide and continue on foot towards the parks east side. The boy's mom called the NPS when she didn't receive further correspondence and asked for a search; the park complied.

The National Park Service continued to be prompted by o icials in government not to give up the search for the Whiteheads. It was evident from the communications circulating in the media that these two men needed to be found. The Whiteheads were both highly educated, in excellent physical condition, and had common sense, and they shouldn't have disappeared.

A few short days after Mrs. Whitehead had alerted the park, Glacier National Park stated that they would utilize every available ranger, volunteer, and other government workers in a systematic search of

every possible location where the Whiteheads may be located.

The NPS searched for six weeks and found nothing. Dora Whitehead wasn't satisfied with the search and contacted President Calvin Coolidge asking for more assistance. The FBI was assigned the case and did pursue many clues, all led nowhere, and everything was deemed "not credible."

On March 14,1925, the Whitehead family distributed 25,000 posters of the men explaining the circumstances and o ering a reward; nothing of value ever came from the poster e ort. On August 19, 1925, Dora Whitehead and her daughter traveled to Glacier National Park and were briefed by the park superintendent on the e orts to find her sons. The park service did explain that the black bears living in the area at the time were not dangerous and that they did not believe that animals might have been involved in the disappearance. An article in the Chicago Daily Tribune on August 19 stated, "Mountaineers with who they (Dora and daughter) talked was convinced that the two had met with violence."

Location of Search

The path that the Whiteheads would have taken was not overly strenuous, nor was the weather obscenely bad. Nothing about this disappearance wreaked of pending disaster. I was very shocked to read that the Mountaineers believed the men had met with violence, from who?

Case Summary

It is a very rare occurrence that two intelligent and grown men go missing in a National Park simultaneously. It's almost 90 years later, and the Whitehead's still haven't been found, and there are no leads. These men were in excellent physical condition and were ready to make the journey they had planned. There are no notes in anything I've read that weather played a role in their disappearance.

Whatever happened to Joseph and William could happen to anyone, and that is a scary proposition.

It has been almost one hundred years, and the Whiteheads and nothing related to them has ever been recovered.

William F. Faber

Missing: July 20,1934, 5 p.m., Two Medicine Chalet, Glacier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 74 years

National Park Cluster* Distance Traveled* Found in Water* Religious A iliation When I was researching Glacier National Park, I saw a

headline that caught my eye on the July 24, 1934, edition of the Detroit Free Press: “Former Detroiter Had Wandered Far O Trail, Long Search Reveals.” This statement had me hooked, and I started to look into the facts behind the disappearance.

William F. Faber was a native of Bu alo, New York. Religion was a cornerstone of his life, and he was dedicated to spreading the word of his lord. He served parishes in Genera and Lockport, New York; came to Montana in 1910; and stayed for twenty-four years. He vacationed at Glacier National Park regularly and considered it a garden spot.

In July 1934, William F. Faber was the bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Montana. He had one son, a physician in San Francisco, Dr. H. H. Faber.

The bishop was a healthy and athletic person for his age and regularly took long hikes and walks. A July 23, 1934, article in the Gazette and Daily said, “Early last week he ascended Mount Henry, one of the smaller nearby peaks.” Mount Henry is not an easy neighborhood walk; it has an elevation of 8,847 feet and towers over the two Medicine Valleys.

Bishop Faber arrived in Glacier National Park on Monday, July 16, for a vacation. Reverend Lee Young accompanied him in the early part of his trip from Great Falls. Lee stayed until July 19 and then returned to his work.

On July 20, 1934, the weather was good, and Bishop Faber stayed at the Two Medicine Chalet in the park. A July 22,1934, article in the Montana Butte Standard had details on what happened next: “Bishop Faber was last seen an hour before dinner when with the cheery remark to friends, ‘Well, I’m on my way,’ started o as had been his custom for a stroll along the nearby trails.” The bishop did not make it back for dinner, and this caused concern. When he hadn’t returned the next day, the lodge started to notify authorities.

The National Park Service was in charge of the search for Bishop Faber. They knew he intended to eat dinner, so a walk of thirty minutes out and thirty minutes back would put him back in time. The first day of the search produced nothing in the area in which they thought he would be found. The SAR was expanded when they were not locating any evidence the bishop was in that area.

On July 23, searchers made a grisly discovery, as is described in the July 24, 1934, edition of the Oneonta Star: “The body was found by

Ranger Clyde Fauley, wedged between two boulders on the shore of a stream. The bishop's head and shoulders were out of the water, and only the lower part of the body was submerged. From the distance he had traveled, Rangers believed Bishop Faber had been gone from the chalet possibly three hours, where he stumbled, confused into the stream. He had left the trail nearly a mile behind and apparently had wandered through the forest." Do you like the way the writer imparted his own thoughts: "he stumbled confused into the stream"? Other articles stated that Faber's upper body and hair were dry and they located $75 in cash in his pockets. This must've been a very unusual sight for rangers.

The body was sent to Cut Bank, where County Coroner M. A. O'Neil rendered a decision that Bishop Faber had died of shock and exposure. He did not drown.

The bishop had left for a short hike before dinner. He knew the meal would start in an hour. How was it possible that he hiked three hours' distance from the chalet? This means he walked until 8 p.m. This also means that a hike back would've meant he wouldn't arrive until 11 p.m., a hike that would've been completed entirely in the dark. Bishop Faber knew Glacier National Park very well and had been there several times. He knew when it got dark, and he probably knew he was getting hungry. So he hiked three hours and then decided to bushwhack a mile to reach a creek—is this plausible?

Readers of my past books have pointed out that many stories and victims show a strong religious affiliation. I do not look for this; if it's there, I write about it in real terms. It is odd that I have written about other religious readers that vanished under extremely unusual conditions.

It was never explained in any article why Bishop Faber would've hiked so far or left the trail. He had walked every other night before dinner and always made it back in time for the meal. What happened the night of July 20, 1934?

July was not the end of the tragedy at Glacier in 1934, there was another major event in August.

Dr. Frederick H. Lumley

Missing: August 13, 1934, Glacier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 27 years

National Park Cluster* Intellect* Point of Separation Frederick Lumley was a professor at Ohio State University in the educational Research Department at the Columbus campus. He had traveled to Glacier

National Park to hike the gorgeous terrain. Dr. Lumley arrived and left his baggage at the Glacier Hotel and started his hike. The last time anyone saw the professor was August 13, when he was observed leaving Goat Camp.

Once Lumley never arrived to pick up his luggage at the Many Glacier Hotel, a search was organized. Searchers interviewed hikers and determined the last confirmed sighting was when he left the Goat Camp area. Park o icials theorized that Lumley would travel either around or over Mount Cleveland the day that he was last seen.

Park o icials mounted a massive search but could not find any evidence of where Lumley was located. Mount Cleveland was checked, and none of his equipment could be found at the base or on the mountain. Searchers were concerned that the professor might have crossed the United States border into Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were notified. The Canadians searched their land and found nothing. Searchers also theorized that Lumley might have hiked to Crossley Lake camp, a hike of seventeen miles from Goat Hunt Camp. Crossley was extensively searched, and again nothing was found.

Lumley's relatives notified park o icials that he was a very experienced climber and spent extensive time refining skills in the Bavarian Alps. Many of the searchers did not believe that he had gone o -trail, but had stayed on a defined path and continued north.

The investigation revealed that Frederick was hiking with R.B. Owen and his wife. Frederick told the pair he was branching o on another hike at some point in the journey and said goodbye, point of separation.

The missing Frederick Lumley was an associate professor at Ohio, as was his father, Frederick Lumley Sr. Fred's dad loved his son immensely and made the trip to Glacier to understand the search and its e orts. After weeks of being on the scene, Fred Sr. decided to post a reward of $500 for the return of his son's body. This was done in an attempt to keep climbers in the backcountry searching.

The 12-day search for Dr. Lumley culminated without finding the professor or his equipment; the park service has classified this as "Missing and presumed dead." You will not find Frederick Lumley on any missing person database or listed as missing on any ledger or list, which the park service may maintain.

The year 1935 brought a new search for Dr. Lumley at Glacier National Park. The probe centered on the Waterton Lakes area near the Canadian border. The $500 reward was still looming, and many people wanted to find Lumley.

The NPS statement, “Missing and presumed dead,” is a convenient method for the park service to wash their hands of a missing person and not note them as missing on an ongoing basis. This statement reality is that there is still a person missing, and nobody is looking for them. Nobody will know that Lumley disappeared in a specific area of the park because a missing person report is not open and active; the case was closed.

I can’t imagine the pain Fred’s dad sustained, not knowing the fate of his scholarly son.

David Paul Wilson

Missing: July 21, 1963, Glacier National Park

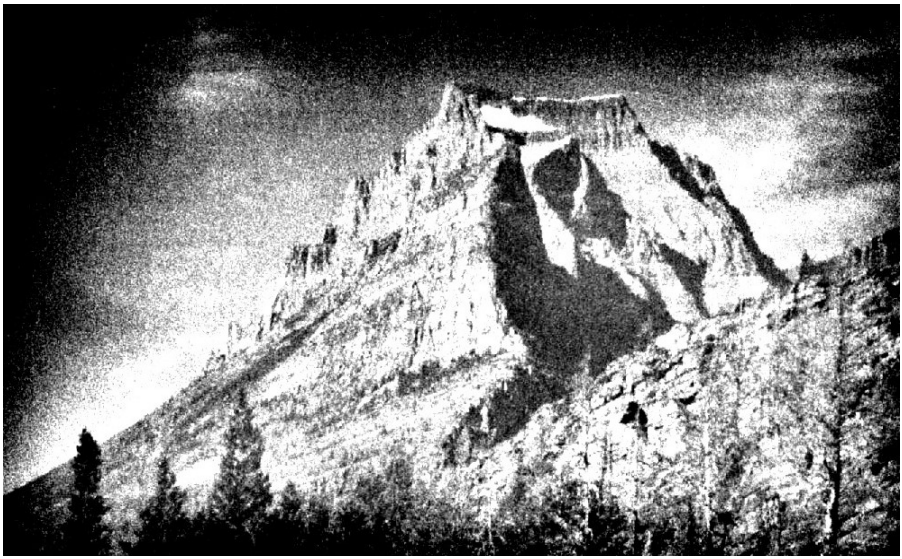
Age at Disappearance: 21 years

Cluster Zone* Intellect* Water

In many of the cases I’ve documented in past books, disappearances involved college-age men with high intellect. David Wilson was going into his senior year at Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio (seventy miles south of Lake Erie). He was a smart young man.

In July 1963, the Glacier National Park Blister Rust Program employed David and his brother, Steven. The rust program dealt with White Pine, currants, and gooseberries inside the park’s boundaries. The crew worked mainly Monday through Friday and had weekends to explore the area.

On July 19, David told the crew he wanted to climb Going-to-the-Sun Mountain via its west access. He told them he was going to do it on July 21 and be back that night.



Going to the Sun Mountain

Going-to-the-Sun Mountain is a focal point in the park. It is 9,647 feet in elevation. The website enjoyyourparks.com has this information about the peak: “The Blackfoot Indians tell the story of Napi, their Sun God, who actually came down to Earth to help his people during a period of great misfortune. When his work was done, Napi began to climb Going-To-The-Sun-Mountain, and he was last seen on the upper cli s as he disappeared back into the sun. And what is so amazing about this beautiful story is there is a large, permanent snowfield on the east face of the mountain-shaped exactly like the profile of an Indian wearing a large headdress.”

On July 22,1963, David didn’t report to work with the rust crew. His friends remembered he’d planned to climb the mountain alone. They checked his room and found the bed hadn’t been slept in the previous night. The National Park Service was notified of the missing crew member.

NPS immediately set a plan into place. They sent two teams up di erent routes to the summit. They knew David would probably take the western course, and that was one way they ascended. Both teams reached the summit and found the logbook that is permanently there. Once climbers reach the top of the mountain, most sign the book and leave a small note, it was never stated if David left a message, but he did sign the book, indicating he’d made the summit on July 21.

Park o icials decided that they needed helicopters to cover the mountain's sides and various locations around the base. A July 25, 1963, article in the Daily Inter Lake had an interesting summation of what happened next: "The second search team to be introduced to the search is a two-person helicopter unit from Johnson Flying Service, Missoula. High winds in the mountain area have forced a delay in using the helicopter, but o icials consider the 'chopper' will be in use some time today." Weather hampered the search.

The park eventually got the helicopter's use and notified hikers in the area to keep their eye open for any unusual sightings. After eight days of intensive search e orts, all search-and-recovery operations were terminated. David's father, Paul, thanked the park sta for their e orts. Steven, David's brother, had participated in search e orts and felt devastated that David wasn't found.

Various websites about climbing rate the Going to the Sun Mountain as a class three or class four for summiting. This means it can be di icult to moderate, and climbers may need to use a rope. The fact that a rope may be needed would make it di icult to hike alone.

Since David vanished, the park has made statements that they believe he might have perished in a crevasse. It has been more than fifty years with many droughts and glaciers declining in size, and David's remains have never been reported. An August 1,1964, article in the Montana Daily Post had an interesting headline for its story about David: "Fate of Mountain Climber Remains a Mystery." The article states that in the one year from the time David vanished, not one clue about what happened had been uncovered. The website bigskywords.com had a section on David's case and had these words about it: "He'd been a seasonal employee, and once again, the disappearance was never adequately explained."

I don't usually write about the disappearance of a climber, but this was di erent. This mountain is one I would probably take on. It is not that di icult, and the beauty is beyond belief. The height is under ten thousand, an elevation I am regularly at in Colorado. It is not that high, and it is manageable. When a local paper states that there is a mystery behind someone's disappearance, we need to pay attention.

Kenneth Gelston

Missing: July 24, 1964—Glacier National Park

Age at Disappearance: 22 years

National Park* Intellect* Water

This case will not appear on any database as a missing person. All documents indicate that Kenneth Gelston was missing and presumed drowned.

Kenneth was raised in Long Beach, California, and attended Hamline University in Minnesota (eighty miles from Lake Superior). His academic achievements and excellent standing at the school earned him a scholarship to Stanford University Law School. All reports and articles indicated Kenneth was a brilliant young man who was liked by all.

After Kenneth completed high school, he obtained a job at Glacier National Park, working the summer and supplementing the dollars he'd need for college. He enjoyed the outdoor atmosphere and the work associated with the park and was invited back five years in a row.

In June 1964, Kenneth completed his first year at Stanford Law School, returned to Glacier, and accepted a park job as the Rising Sun Motor Inn auditor. He worked Monday through Friday and usually had at least one day o on the weekend to explore the park. During the summer of 1964, Kenneth's sister, Jane, also worked at the park as a waitress at the East Glacier Lodge.

On July 24, 1964, Kenneth invited a female friend who also worked in the park to hike with him to Saint Mary Falls. The falls sit almost at the base of Going- to-the-Sun Mountain at the far southwestern end of Saint Mary Lake. It's approximately a four- mile hike from the Saint Mary Campground to the falls trailhead and a 1.7-mile round-trip hike to the top. The falls hike has a 215-foot elevation gain and is classified as easy. The falls are gorgeous and tumble multiple levels over a reasonably gradual decline. Some of the slides go through rocky chutes that only add to the beauty.

Kenneth and his female friend arrived at the top of the falls. The young woman's name has never been made public by the park service, but she said they walked to an area o the trail near the water. Kenneth told her he was going to get a drink of water and look at the falls. The

friend turned away. The July 26,1964, edition of the Daily Inter Lake had these specifics of what happened: “Gelston was getting a drink of water or attempting to look over St. Mary Falls when he let out a scream. That was the last his companion heard of him. Gelston’s companion went to Sun Point and reported the accident to a naturalist there.”

Rangers immediately responded to the incident and had the young woman show them where she had heard the scream. They put employees at the bottom of the falls and also installed a screen to ensure they would catch the body if it floated downstream.

In the following days, the park service contacted the Flathead County Sheri SCUBA Team. The group went into the water below, where Kenneth allegedly fell and cleared trees that were blocking the water and blown down, searched pools of water, and cleared the path down to the bottom. Once the pools at the bottom were cleared, canoes combed the surface, looking for Kenneth’s personal property and clothing. They found nothing. In total, four divers worked as teams to clear all areas. Once Kenneth’s parents heard of the incident, they traveled to Glacier and monitored the activity. The seven-day search for the law student-produced no evidence that he was in the water. The National Park Service terminated the SAR with an August 1 announcement that they had nowhere else to search. The grates at the bottom of the river had caught nothing. Divers in the water had seen nothing. The logjams in the river had caught nothing. The park service made the following statement in an August 1, 1964, article in the Montana Daily Post: “This week the search for Kenneth W. Gelston, 22, Long Beach, Calif., was postponed. Gelston is presumed drowned after plunging over St. Mary’s Falls a week ago. The search was halted because of high water and dangerous conditions below the falls.”

I am one for absolute clarity. Nobody saw Kenneth go over the falls. I have spoken to many people about this case and remember several stories of others who fell in others’ presence. Someone rarely screams as they fall; they are usually too busy trying to grab hold of something to stop the fall. I am not implying in the least that his companion had anything to do with the fall. Still, I will remind readers that I have documented many suspicious instances where people fell under unusual circumstances when nobody was watching, as in this case. I think that if someone were pushed from a secure position on a cli or ledge, that sudden jerk might cause the victim to yell or scream.

It’s an odd coincidence that I documented two incidents about young men missing in Glacier National Park; both occurred on or in the

shadow of the same mountain. Both were college-age men, and both had siblings also employed in the park. Neither was ever found. Kenneth disappeared almost exactly one year to the day from when David Wilson vanished. Considering the size of the park, the location of these incidents is an odd coincidence.

Joseph Zorko

Missing: August 8, 1976, 10 p.m., West Glacier

Age at Disappearance: 26 years

Water* Canines* Disability* Cluster Zone* Point of Separation

In Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence, I wrote about 127 cases of predominantly young men (mostly in the twenties) that vanished and were later found deceased in water. In many of the cases, the coroners could not determine the cause of death. In every incident, the victim was never observed leaving the event they were at, and they were never seen entering the body of water. Water locations included ponds, lakes, creeks, rivers, and bays. The vast majority of these victims were white males. When I first started to research this disappearance, I immediately began to think of the similarities in "Missing 411 A Sobering Coincidence."

Just west of West Glacier, there is a location called San Suz Educational Campground. It is a facility that allows disabled people an outdoor experience, and that is why Joe Zorko was visiting the camp on August 8, 1976. This August 11, 1976, article in the Missoulian explained the circumstances surrounding an unusual event, "The missing man, last seen wearing a black jacket, blue jeans, and thick glasses, was described as being about 5 feet 10 inches with curly blond hair. According to his family, Zorko is mentally retarded and a victim of Cerebral Palsy." Joe had traveled to the facility from his home in Havre. There were thirteen students and six sta members at the camp. This August 11, 1976, article in the Independent Record described vaguely how the center lost track of Joe, "Joe Zorko, 26 a cerebral palsy patient, disappeared sometime after 10 p.m., Sunday night when he attended campfire activities at a trailer court about 1 1/2 miles east of Coram, o icials stated. There are some signs he might have been picked up by a car, Ritterson said Tuesday as the search ended for the day. The Bloodhounds trailed him to the edge of a road, then lost the trail."

Half Moon Lake with the Reeds in the background

Once Joe could not be located, counselors enlisted additional assistance from camp o icials and then notified the Flathead County Sheri . The search started almost immediately with people calling Joe's name, yelling for him, and bright lights brought into the region's forest area to guide him to safety.

On Monday, August 9, Flathead County asked for assistance from the National park Service as Glacier National Park is just a few miles away. The park service gave them personnel and a helicopter. There was another helicopter given to the search from the United States Forest Service.

An August 11, 1976, article in the Daily Inter laker had the feelings of Flathead County Sheri Al Rierson, "It's as if he disappeared into thin air, Rierson said this morning. Were still basically under the assumption that a car picked him up on U.S.2, he said." This quote was given Wednesday morning when the helicopters went into the sky. Later that day, searchers made a startling discovery just 1/4 of a mile from where Joe was last seen. I will separate two distinctively di erent statements of the facts surrounding the discovery of Joe's body.

Statement#!: Independent Record, August 12, 1976 "Authorities said Zorko was found propped up in a standing position by weeds and brush in Half Moon Lake, only a quarter-mile from the camp. He was

first spotted by a helicopter, authorities said, and later pulled out of the water by searchers who confirmed his identity. About 80 persons joined the search."

Statement #2: The Missoulian, August 12, 1976 "Flathead County Sheri Al Rierson said the body of 26-year-old Joe Zorko was found in Half Moon Lake about 1/4 of a mile from the San-Suz-Ed Campground east of Coram and near West Glacier. The sheri said the body was found in eight feet of water, standing in the lake in the midst of the brush and weeds. Rierson said Zorko apparently drowned immediately after walking into the lake. From a helicopter, the body appeared to be a log, the sheri said, but a ground party confirmed it was Zorko's body after a report from the helicopter indicating further checking was needed."

How does a body get to be standing or "propped up" in the weeds?

There is no way a body gets into this position, and the individual drowns. Several articles stated that the body was taken directly to a funeral home in Columbia Falls, meaning, no autopsy, big mistake. If Joe had accidentally fallen in the lake, he would be screaming for help; nobody heard anything. If he had fallen into this lake with no current, he would have stayed almost exactly where he fell, not get pushed high up into the weeds, and be propped up.

When men drown, 99.99% of the time, they are found face down. When women drown, they are found face up; it has to do with body chemistry. When a body is located in the position of Joe Zorko, something highly, highly unusual happened. There have been cases very similar to this in the past; nearly everyone states the evidence points to being dropped from above. Joe did not walk well; the idea that he meandered his way into that position makes no sense. You need to think logically about these cases. Joe was physically disabled; he moved slower than other young men; how did he ever get close to the water without counselors seeing him?

Remember the comment from the sheri that Joe "disappeared into thin air." Canines never were able to track him to his body, not normal. Nobody saw him leave the group. Nobody found tracks leading to the water. Law enforcement o icers are cautious with their words, and a statement like this is rare and exemplifies the lack of clues they had as to where Joe was located.

In other cases where young men are located in water, a finding of an unknown cause of death has happened many times. Secondary

autopsies completed by parents showed extremely high levels of GHB in their system. GHB can cause something similar to paralysis, yet the victim is awake and knows what is happening. If it is cold outside and they are placed in that environment, they'll die, the coroner may have a finding of hypothermia. If the victim is placed in water, they'll drown, and the conclusion will be drowning. Since it appears that Joe never went for autopsy, we will never know what happened to this young man.

David Partlow

Missing: May 9, 1987, Columbia Mountain Age at Disappearance: 29 years

Aircraft Crash* Illness/Disability/* Weather* Cluster Zone

David was one of six children raised in southwest Spokane, Washington. He graduated with honors from Ritzville High School. Both of David's parents were Navy veterans, and they made a life for themselves in eastern Washington. He was considered very bright by family and friends and could always be recognized by his shoulder-length hair.

After graduating from high school and attending community college, David joined the Air Force, graduated from mountain survival training, and did a successful four-year stint. After the military, he returned to Spokane and worked in visual arts and attended community college again.

In 1986, David had a girlfriend that was moving to Kalispell, Montana, and he decided to follow her. He obtained a job in the city working for a business equipment company. Life for David and his girlfriend were good in northern Montana.

David took up the sport of hang gliding while he lived in Spokane. He liked the spot and flew regularly and got very proficient. He liked to drive to Coeur D'Alene to fly. Once he arrived in Kalispell, he met others interested in flying and tried to do it regularly.

On May 9, 1987, David went with two other friends to the mountain to the east of Lake Blaine, east of Kalispell. The group knew a piece of private property they could leave from, and each departed safely.

I was able to obtain the Flathead County Sheri report on this incident. I also drove to Spokane and interviewed David's mother in preparation for this story.

Naomi McCrae is David's ninety-one-year-old mother, and it still very sharp and mobile. I spent much of one day speaking with Naomi and looking over various albums about David. She is still devastated about what happened on that May day in 1987.

On May 9, 1987, the wind was relatively calm on the east side of the Flathead Valley in the area David took o from, so everyone thought. Two of the three pilots left from east of Blaine Lake and landed shortly

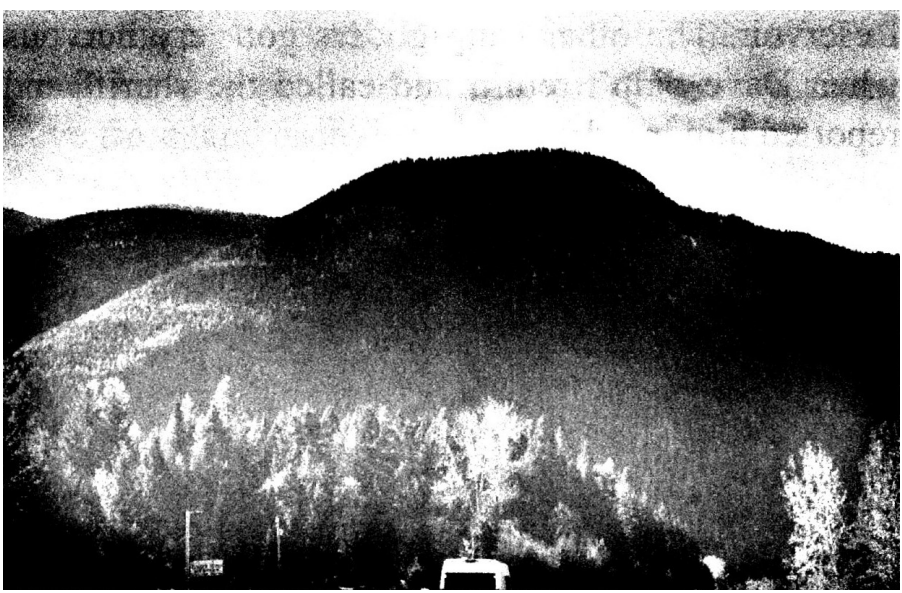
after without much incident. Something happened with David's trip. Friends of Dave's described him as an intermediate pilot who did have good experience. There is not a great explanation of what happened on his journey, but here is one explanation.

David took o with ease, glided over the lake, and rose with the wind currents. He seemed to be heading north in the ridgeline and was not coming down. Several times, everyone lost sight of him as he disappeared on the top of the ridge towards Hungry Horse Reservoir. The other hang gliders got very nervous when Dave didn't return and called the sheri and reported him missing.

Columbia Mountain is at the far left of the photo and Lake Blaine is located at the base of the

mountain at the far right, 7 miles between the two points.

The Flathead County Sheri committed extensive resources to try to locate David Partlow. This was an unusual case; it's rare to lose a hang glider. The craft itself is not small, and other pilots knew that David had a parachute attached to the fuselage should he need it. The sheri put eighty searchers into the mountains and two helicopters crisscrossing the ridge looking for the craft. A May 12, 1987, article in the Spokane Daily had these details from the sheri , "We felt that if he would have survived the flight, we would've found him by now." After three days of searching, the SAR had found nothing, and they were getting frustrated.



This is a view of Columbia Mountain from the east side and the region searchers believed

Partlow walked down

The sheri interviewed the other pilots that David was with and reviewed weather reports from the day in question. People reported

that the winds were a little odd that day, but nothing that everyone could not easily handle. Friends of David went into the mountains and continued the search by themselves from May 13-May 17; they found nothing, and the search was terminated.

Mark Menke was a Kalispell resident and a supervisor for a local electric utility. I met Mark at his residence and had him describe what he did hearing about David. Mark said he was a pilot and decided to make an e ort to locate David. On June 24, he rented a plane, took a friend, and flew the ridgeline between Lake Blaine and Columbia Mountain. Mark said they were over the top of Doris Mountain (6900'), flying towards Columbia Mountain near Fawn Lake when they saw a hang glider on the ground. Mark said he knew they had found David's glider. Mark said they flew circles over the area and did not see anyone or any activity. He returned to Kalispell airport and contacted the Flathead County Sheri .

On June 25, Mark and a search and rescue team from the sheri 's o ice went to the site. They found that David's parachute had been deployed, and they did not see any significant damage to the glider. They located David's helmet and backpack sitting next to the craft. The pilot was nowhere in sight. The team searched the area around the craft and partially down the mountain, finding nothing. The location had interesting ramifications. From the site of the glider, you could see roads and Hungry Horse Reservoir to the southeast. The walk to the reservoir would've been downhill and not overly complicated.

The SAR coordinator made statements that David was in great shape, he had diabetes, and it did not appear he had been injured in the crash. They also stated that there must have been strong winds to push him north seven miles and over the top of the ridge where his glider was located.

The sheri put canines and other searchers back at the crash site the following day. They did track a scent downhill towards the South Fork of the Flathead River, then it stopped. David did not make it to the river, but they didn't have a good explanation as to where he went. The direction he chose didn't make great sense since the reservoir was in sight. There were over three weeks committed at multiple times to locate the pilot; he was never found.

Naomi stated that David was a brilliant young man; friends reinforced this. She said that he had always made smart decisions and thought well under stressful conditions. The fact that David left his helmet and

backpack at the crash site seems a bit odd. There were various rumors that David ran away because he had issues with his girlfriend, totally untrue. David was the type of son that called or wrote to his mom every week. Since the date David vanished, he never contacted Naomi again.

I have a challenging time understanding where David could have gone. I have hiked throughout those mountains and can tell you that they are steep and have predators. David's trip would have been 100% downhill, easy. The sheri said there was no evidence of animal predation, I believe them.

Naomi and David's family placed a memorial plaque at the top of Tekoa Mountain outside of Spokane honoring the location that David learned to fly.

This disappearance is added to the Glacier National Park Cluster. It is approximately fifteen air miles from the site of the crash to the front gates at Glacier.

Patrick Whalen

Missing: November 2, 2000, Atlantic Creek Back- country Campground, Glacier National Park Age at Disappearance: 33 years 6', 160 lbs, Blonde Hair, Hazel Eyes Cluster Zone* Water

**Refer to the "Glacier National Park Cluster" Chapter for details.

**I did submit an extensive Freedom of Information Act with the National Park Service for all documents related to the disappearance and investigation associated with Patrick Whalen. I did receive over one hundred pages of documents, reports and photographs that cost

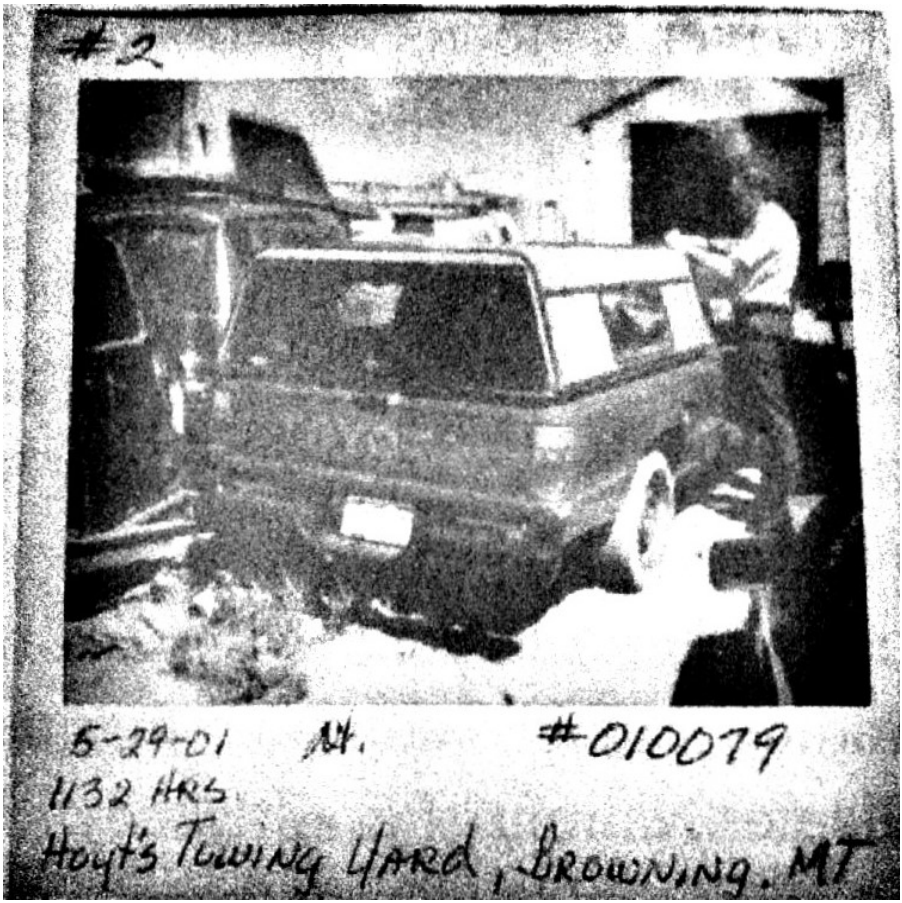
several hundred dollars in fees. There were many other documents that the Park Service refused to furnish claiming privacy issues. Some people are meant to travel, and Patrick Whalen was one of those people. He didn't stay long in many places, but it is evident that he loved the outdoors. Patrick especially loved the land in Glacier National Park and lands owned by the Blackfeet Native American Tribe. Patrick had numerous encounters with rangers and park o icials in the year before he disappeared, but there was never any hint that something was wrong.

In early November of 2000, Patrick's father contacted National Park o icials explaining that he hadn't heard from his son and was worried that something might be wrong. The park did not have recent contact with Patrick

but stated they would keep his name on file.

On November 2, 2000, Patrick's truck hit a deer on US Highway 89 near Kiowa Junction. Witnesses saw Patrick put a pillow under the deer head, place a blanket over it, and then leave food near its mouth. It appears that Patrick abandoned the truck at that location and went to backpack into Glacier National Park. It is unclear from the reports if the vehicle was in operating condition. The truck was towed by orders of local police, and it was impounded on November 3, 2000.

There was no activity regarding Patrick Whalen in any of the NPS reports until May 10, 2001. Whalen's father contacted the park service and reiterated he had not heard from his son in months and believed he might be somewhere in the park.



Patrick Whalen's truck being search at the tow yard in Browning, MT

On May 27,2001, National Park Ranger Michelle Madland was on a routine patrol hike with a former park employee in the Atlantic Creek area. She filed incident report number 010079, explaining what she saw in the campground. The ranger wrote that she found abandoned backpacking equipment at a campsite. She stated she also found a tent that was partially falling down but had obviously been there throughout the winter. It was a blue REI brand that had all zippers closed, and there were no tears to the fabric; it was sealed. Michelle looked inside the tent and found everything you'd think to be found inside of a tent when someone was sleeping, except nobody was there, anywhere. The ranger found a pair of boots, a wool hat, mittens, pack, underwear, shorts, and a pile of clothing, socks, toiletries, stove, food, water bottle, water filtration system, and a commercial driver's license belonging to Patrick Whalen. The most unusual find in the tent was an empty Buck knife case.

Madland and her friend took photos of the site and then hung the food from ropes so bears in the area would not get to it. In her report, she clearly stated that it did not appear that bears or other animals had ransacked the campground. She couldn't establish radio contact with the communications center in Glacier National Park, so they hiked out of the area and contacted backcountry rangers assigned to the region.

On May 28, additional rangers started to converge on the campsite and created a grid search. Rangers started an inside out search that consisted of an extensive investigation of the site and a comprehensive search. Also, on May 28, Rangers queried their computers and found that Patrick's truck had been towed six months earlier and was still being held by a local tow company. Investigators responded to the tow yard and inventoried and searched the vehicle for clues about Patrick's disappearance.

On May 30, cadaver dogs responded to the Atlantic Creek Campground and searched the area for any indicators that a human body was in the area. After several hours of searching, the dog handler stated that they were convinced that there was not a body anywhere in the campground area.

Case Summary

The disappearance of Patrick Whalen and the subsequent investigation stimulates more questions than gives answers. I scoured every sentence of the reports I was given, and I never saw one line indicating that Patrick's equipment was dusted for fingerprints. The original ranger found an empty wine bottle in the area and stated that she threw it out, puzzling. This is evi-dence and may contain fingerprints or DNA of someone Patrick was with the night he disappeared. None of Patrick's items were dusted for fingerprints. I saw no report indicating that Patrick's vehicle was dusted for fingerprints.

The description that Michelle Madland gave of the tent and the inside contents gave me the impression that someone was sleeping or staying inside, something happened outside, and they got up to investigate (leaving their boots behind), taking the knife for protection (at this time in history, people could not carry firearms in National Parks, that has now changed). Patrick didn't have time to put his shoes on, but he did grab the knife, thus the empty sheath. He left behind everything he'd need if he were taking a hike (water bottle, filter, maps, boots, etc.). It would appear that Patrick walked outside his tent to investigate something in the middle of the night and never returned.

Conclusions & Analysis

Montana Missing Persons by Date

Sex* Name Date/Time Missing* Age

M* Patrick Murphy 05/01/1896—3p.m.* Unk

M* Alexis Bork 11/07/1896—p.m.*Unk

F* William Dunphy

(daughter) 09/02/1903—Unk* Infant

M* William Quay 11/1904* 30

M* James Twohig 12.01.1905* Unknown

M* Orville Tuttle 11/21/1910—4:00p.m.* 23 M* Kenneth Crandall 03/13/1916—6p.m.* 3

F* Annie Brown 06/04/21—3p.m.* 4

M* William Symes 10/29/21—2 p.m.* 35

F* Viola Jauran 05/21/23—p.m.* 4

M* Joseph Whitehead 08/24/25* 29

M* William Whitehead 08/24/25* 22

F* Alice Pazolla 06/07/25—5p.m.* 3

M* John Houghland 11/15/26* 32

M* Chris Wheeler 08/05/29* 35

M* William Faber 07/20/34 at 5:00 p.m.* 74

M* Dr. Frederick Lumley 08/13/34* 27

M* Walter Orndor Jr. 05/31/36—5p.m.* 16 years

M* Murray Walkup Miller 10/24/36—Unk* 9

M* Clarence Dorey 10/16/38* 24

M* William Hoskina 10/16/38* 20

M* Paul Praast 11/02/42* Unknown

M* Elmer Nulk 08/15/46—p.m.* 19 mos.

M« Tommy Pugsley 04/19/47—p.m.« 2

M« Arnie Olson 08/11/47—5:00 p.m.« 4

M« George Loftus 11/06/47« 38

M« Judd McWilliams 09/16/48« 82

F« Catherine Keeney 06/04/50—3 p.m.« 75

F« Diane Cox 07/23/50 at 5:00 p.m.« 2

M« Edgar Humphrey 11/13/50« 84

M« Jerry Monkman 04/25/53-5:00 p.m.« 11

F« Patty Ann Mclean 07/04/53—2:30p.m.« 3

M« Herman Spieker 10/02/53« 86

M« Donald Fain 10/03/53« 13

F« Ida May Curtis 07/04/55—6 p.m.« 2

F« Mary Gay Bent 07/13/58—3p.m.« 5

M« Lawrence E. Prange 08/14/58—Unk« 20 M« Sam Adams 10/27/58 —Unk« 39

M« William Cormack 07/22/59« 55

M« Ernest Bru ey 08/20/59« 38

M« Arthur Jordan 11/08/59« 59

M« Bill Whitney 08/20/60« 70

M« Fritz Frey 11/14/60« 65

M« Delmar Berg 10/21/61« 21

M« William Weller 08/02/62« 76

M« David Wilson 07/21/63-21

M« Kenneth Gelston 07/24/64« 22

M-Timothy Schock 11/23/75—p.m.« 22

M« Joseph Zorko 08/08/76—10 p.m.« 26

F« Patton Seifert 02/23/79« 29

F« Megan Ginevicz 04/30/80—3:15 p.m.« 2

M« Tracy Cray 02/13/83—4p.m.« 26

F« Nyleen Kay

Marshall 06/25/83—4p.m.« 4

M« Curtis Holeman 07/22/84—5p.m.« 31

M« Glenn Carr 10/25/84« 40

M« David Partlow 05/09/87« 29

M« Brendan 07/30/88« 22

O'Connor

M« Dan Wilson 08/24/88« 35

M« Dan Campbell 04/08/91« 42

M« Jeremy Moors 07/28/95« 24

M« Patrick T Whalen 11/02/00« 33

M« Allen Theis 11/23/03-52

M« Robert Springfield 09/19/04-4p.m.« 49

07/18/07—1:00 p.m.«

F« Barbara Bolick 55

12/23/08—Unk« 1

M« Wyatt Little Light Month

M« Dietmar

Munhofen 06/06/13« 58

Totals = 68

Males = 55

Females = 13

Average time for a disappearance: 4:15 p.m.

Age distribution:

Age/ Number of Cases- Largest Clusters

2-5

3-3

4-4

22-3

29-3

35-3

38-3

*Age with the largest number of cases: 2 years old (5) * Youngest Victim: One month old

* Oldest Victim: 86 years old

* Victims of unknown age: 6

Found vs. Never Found

44 victims were never found.

24 victims were found.

Readers need to remember this is not a cumulative total of all missing cases. These numbers only refer to a narrow group of victims that meet the profile points identified in our work. We have no doubt that the number of missing people in the wilds of Montana are far higher than what is represented here.

Dates of disappearances:

First year documented: 1896

Data accumulated until 2019

The number of days from 1896-2019: 44,280

Date Anomaly

October 16, 1938

Two disappearances in one day.

Case #1:

Clarence Dorey

Missing: October 16, 1938, 8 Miles Northeast of Florence

Age at Disappearance: 24 years

Never Found

William Hoskina

Missing: October 16, 1938, Yogo Creek, Sapphire Village

Age at Disappearance: 20 years

Never Found

Age of Victims: 20 & 24 years old

Distance Between Locations: 150 air miles

Unique Feature: Almost on same longitudinal Line Activity at Time of Incident: Both were hunting: Both were separated from companions.

Narrative:

There are 44,280 days that are covered in the research in this book. Imagine there is one day where two people disappear doing the exact same function, hunting. Both were men and both got separated from their companions and vanished.

I checked our master list of 1200+ names that are documented in our nine books and there are no other missing people anywhere in the world missing on that date other than these two men from Montana.

Hoskina and Dorey were never found.

Montana Cluster Map

The red dots on the map represent missing person cluster zones.

The state has eleven cluster zones with the largest being Glacier National Park with eleven victims identified.

It is remarkable that there are four cluster zones near the Wyoming border and two are adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

One of the biggest anomalies anywhere in the United States is the cluster near Butte that has four females documented. I don't know of any other location in the United States that has four people in the zone that are only females.

Conclusion

It is very hard to get a grasp on a topic by reading one book about one state. I hope this book lights a fire in your heart to understand the overall picture. These disappearances are not happening in just the United States, we have documented these cases in Canada, Australia, England, France, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Borneo, Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Russia, Israel, and New Zealand. While nineteen countries have been written about, we have no doubt this will evolve into an issue involving the majority of the countries in the world.

You can follow our work on YouTube at the CanAm Missing Project and at our missing person website at www.canammissing.com.

I am very grateful for the thousands of people who have supported our work in the last ten years. We have never asked for donations, we just ask you support us by purchasing our books and donating them to libraries after they are read.

The greatest gift you can give anyone who hiked in the wilderness is a personal locator beacon. You can find them on Amazon.com, REI and most outdoor stores. This item is the size of a small cell phone. When activated, it sends a signal to a satellite and then onto the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration indicating someone is in distress and needs assistance. NOAA determines the GPS coordinates of the transponder and sends SAR teams to within ten feet of the signal. These transponders have saved hundreds of lives and they could save thousands more if people knew about it. If you know

a hunter, hiker, fisherman or trail runner, get them this gift for the holidays.

Thanks again for your support.

You can always email me directly at Missing411@ yahoo.com

THE MISSING 411 COLLECTION

Missing 411: Western United States

The eastern and western books were originally one book. I split and published them as two books, which I released one month apart.

Published: February 2, 2012

367 pages

Covers the western United States and Canada

Missing 411: Eastern United States

Published: March 5, 2012

358 pages

Covers the eastern United States

Missing 411: North America and Beyond

Published: February 28, 2013

488 pages

New stories of missing people from the United States, Canada, Australia, England, France, Iceland, and Indonesia

Missing 411: The Devil's in the Detail

Published: April 18, 2014

446 pages New stories from the United States, Canada, Australia, Borneo, Ecuador, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Austria. There is an extensive analysis in the back of the book of cases from the first four books, including statistics.

Missing 411: A Sobering Coincidence

Published: July 22, 2015

398 pages

This book exposes an entirely new set of unusual disappearances with young men found in bodies of water. Cases are documented from the United States, Canada, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Missing 411: Hunters (Second edition)

Published: June 21, 2016

362 pages

These are stories of armed hunters who disappeared under very unusual circumstances. Cases are documented from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Azerbaijan.

Missing 411: O the Grid

Published: September 16, 2017

401 pages

Entirely new stories from the United States, Canada, and six other countries. Tables, lists, and analysis from past books are in the conclusions. Statements from SAR personnel are highlighted.

Missing 411: LAW

Published: September 2018

375 pages

This is a new spoke in the investigative wheel that presents a series of aircraft disappearances in United States, Scotland, and Australia. The book also presents recently released studies of land based vanishing in the United States, Canada, Italy, Norway, and the United Kingdom. The manuscript ends covering geographical triangles and water related disappearances.

Missing 411: Canada

Published: October 2019

351 pages

The first book we have published about a province in Canada. This is also the first book we have sold that comes with a full size cluster map. The stories in this book have ba led thousands. The number of missing person clusters will confound readers because of the numbers and their proximity to population zones.

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